THE

MOUNTAIN CHIEF;

OR, THE

DESCENDANT OF WILLIAM TELL,

The Deliverer of Switzerland.

A ROMANCE,

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

"'Tis liberty that gives
"The fading flower of life its lustre and perfume,
"And we are weeds without it."

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THE

MOUNTAIN CHIEF.

CHAPTER V.

Upon marshalling his troop, Ulric found himself at the head of two thousand three hundred men, the late conflicts having cost nearly one thousand of the band. To augment this number, to ascertain the remaining stength of the enemy within the walls of Zurich, and to make himself acquainted with the real dispositions of the people, were the first

object which occupied the attention of the new chief; and their importance was allowed by Ap Gryff, whose advice Ulric determined to solicit and act upon in every instance. He considered that the long experience of the bard, his indisputable attachment to the cause of liberty, and his acknowledged wisdom and foresight, eminently qualified him to advise and direct, where he wanted the requisite physical vigour to execute projects of daring. Ap Gryff himself relied much on Ulric's prudence, vigilance and information: he considered that the cause of Switzerland could not have been placed in better hands, for that none could be more adequate to the achievement of her independence than the youth, who had displayed such qualities of mind and body. He prided himself not a little for the share he had in the instilment of

those good principles, of those brilliant accomplishments into the bosom of Ulric, and the anticipation of their future growth and expansion was to him a source of the purest delight.

Notwithstanding the apparent supineness which displayed itself in the conduct of the inhabitants of Zurich, during the recent attacks, the bravery of the Swiss band had excited amongst the people a spirit of patriotism, and had determined many to join the standard of the mountain chief on the first opportunity which might occur, and that period was not distant, for the recruiting parties of Ulric, who under various disguises and pretexts found their way into every part of Zurich were ever on the spot to improve any disposition of this nature. The consequence was the rapid increase

of the band from amongst those very persons whom Ulric had stigmatized in his own bosom and to his own comrades, as base, unprincipled, traitorous and cowardly. In less than three months, however, after the expedition to the town, not less than one thousand of the Zurickers were enrolled in the band, and appeared to be animated with a spirit of patriotism and gallantry in a degree equal to that of any one of the troop. This rapid and certainly unexpected acquisition had the effect of raising the sinking courage and hopes of Ulric amazingly; and as he contemplated his army, now equal to its former strength, his prospects appeared sensibly to brighten before him, and his imagination once again pictured Switzerland delivered by his exertions.

This reinforcement enabled the

band to issue forth on foraging expeditions and excursions after provisions with much more spirit, and in much more respectable numbers, than they had hitherto been enabled to spare, since the diminution of their strength, and in proportion as their determination and enthusiasm increased, success also increased; for they no longer contented themselves with hovering about the retreat, but extended themselves through the mountainous districts, wherever they were tempted by the hopes and probabilities of obtaining a good booty. In one of these perambulations, the party on the march, exceeding two thousand men, under the command of a gallant young man who had been selected by Ulric for that office on account of his very conspicuous bravery, were gladdened by the sight of a large store of

provisions and stores: the convoy was winding down the lowest acclivity of the mountain, and was evidently intended for the supply of Zurich where provisions had recently been scanty. The stores of the band were also reduced to a remarkably low ebb, and this opportunity of replenishing them was too excellent to be let pass them. It was fortunately late in the evening, when the foragers caught the first view of this desirable object, and as the convoy moved on at an uncommonly slow pace, the pursuers hoped to come upon them unperceived, under the cover of the approaching darkness. They accordingly, by a more ready route contrived to throw themselves behind a ridge near which the provisions must pass, before they could arrive at the walls of the town, and here it was intended to attack them

with a vigorous impetuosity which might ensure a rapid victory before the garrison could send out succours to the assistance of the assaulted guards of the treasure. Here having posted themselves, the mountaineers patiently waited, until the dusk of evening had rendered the walls of the town indistinct. At this moment the van of the division of Germans which escorted the stores, halted near the spot where the band had taken their station, and paused for the coming up of the convoy. In less than a quarter of an hour the rest came up, and the whole of the military force was estimated at about one thousand men: at this instant, just as they had moved from the spot, the Swiss commander made the signal for the attack, and immediately a detachment of the heroes threw themselves before the convoy,

while the rear of the enemy was attacked impetuously by the residue. The Austrian soldiers, ever faithful in the discharge of their duty, defended that which was entrusted to them in a manner which proved that they understood its worth, and that they were worthy of the confidence which had been reposed in them: while fifteen hundred of the band engaged the soldiers, the residue seized upon the provisions and bore away the convoy up the eminence with all the expedition imaginable. The contest was not of long duration, for nothing could withstand the impetuous assault of the Swiss, and the Germans endeavoured to make good their retreat to the town. But the mountaineers were well aware that such a measure would prove the frustration of their design, and would probably add to

their destruction, since the whole garrison would instantly turn out in pursuit of them, and the stores would be retaken, and themselves placed in a situation of extreme danger, before they could reach half way to the cavern; they had in consequence of this impression taken measures to render such a retreat impracticable, and the defeated enemy found themselves cut off from their wished for Zurich by the interposition of a strong band of their opponents. Nothing now remained to them but to fly for shelter to the mountains, and thither they accordingly bent their course, closely pursued by the victorious and exulting Swiss, who congratulated themselves not a little upon the feat of this evening. The pursuit was warmly continued for some hours, during which the band passed their

retreat, and scaled the steep acclivity which overlooked it, and whither the panic-struck Austrians flew for security. Here the fugitive troops were overtaken, and a second conflict ensued, which was of longer duration than the first: for the enemy, finding themselves now completely cut off from every hope of succour, remote from any place of security, and outnumbered by their antagonists, fought with that desperation which is the offspring of despair, resolving, since escape was impracticable, to sell their lives at as dear a purchase as possible. Two hours' continuance of the fight, however, had so reduced their numbers, that scarcely one hundered Germans remained to finish the contest, which had commenced with ten times the number; yet did these still maintain the unequal conflict, until every in-

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dividual had fallen beneath the attacks of their enemies, and in their last moments, the rash foreigners stimulated each other to refuse the proffered mercy of traitors.

This contest had cost the band only twenty five men, and the residue immediately bent their course to the cavern, their hearts more elated with the nature of this evening's triumph than they had been for a period of twelve years before. When they reached their retreat, they found the whole of the convoy arrived, and the joyous band which had remained at home, and whose apprehensions of future want were effectually dispelled by this seasonable and bountiful supply, employed in unloading the provisions and conveying them into the recesses of the cavern. Ulric thanked his gallant comrades in the most animated terms for the service

they had this evening performed, and augured the most glorious and decisive successes from a continuance of exertions such as they had now displayed. The gallant Swiss were elated beyond measure by the praises of their commander, and replied to his panegyric with a shout which echoed through the vaulted residence, and breaking its way into the open atmosphere, was reverberated from the listening mountains, and broke the sacred stillness of the noon of night. In a short time the whole of the stores were safely deposited in the abode of the band, and a table plentifully stored with the captured provisions was spread for the entertainment of those gallant heroes who had with such vigour and valour driven famine from the neighbourhood of the mountains, to take up his residence amongst the garrison of Zu-

rich. The provisions were of the first quality, and the flavour of the wine was exquisite: and each individual ate and drank to his fill. It was a happy moment, and Ulric's joy rose to the utmost when he beheld the grateful and contented countenances of all his brave followers, as they appeared seated on the ground around him. Ap Gryff's felicity was not inferior to that of the gallant youth: and when the repast was closed, taking up his harp, he tuned the obedient strings, while the delighted warriors hushed their conversations and strained their ears with eager anxiety to catch the cheering sounds which had obtained such a rooted influence in their hearts. In a few moments, the inspired harper swept the strings, and elicited a song of gratitude and praise to the virgin, which animated every bosom, and

excited in every heart a sensation correspondent with that which predominated in the breast of the musician. Melody proved the sister of devotion, and the grateful Swiss mingled their pœan and their song of gratitude, which filled the cavern with harmony, and ascended through the mountains to the throne of heaven.

Scarcely had the sublime anthem ceased, when a noise was heard at the entrance of the cavern. "We are betrayed, comrades!" exclaimed Ulric leaping from his seat, and drawing his sword: the action was followed by every individual, and two or three of the band nearest to the entrance, rushed out of the cavern, but soon returned, bringing in a single person whom they had discovered lying at the foot of a glacier near the mouth of the retreat.

He had scarcely recovered himself from the shock and alarm he had experienced, when he was brought to Ulric, who, on understanding that no other cause of apprehension existed, had replaced the sword in its scabbard, and reseated himself on the ground. "Stranger," exclaimed the youthful leader, when the tranquillity of the cavern had been restored, and the prisoner had recovered his recollection—"Tell me what is your business on the mountain at this time of the evening, and of whom you were in search? Speak openly and the truth; for the least appearance of deceit shall cost you dear; while candour shall protect you from every kind of injury; and, if your errand be not inimical to us, you shall be treated with the kindness of a guest."

"Noble sir!" replied the trem-

bling stranger, who was struck with the dignified person and manners of Ulric—"my journey to these mountains was commenced in search of a gallant band of Swiss, to whose abode I have no clue, but that they reside amongst these grisons. As I was wandering near the entrance of this cave, without knowing whither I proceeded, I heard the sound of your harmony, and it seemed to me so supernatural, that I considered it must proceed from some celestial being. While I listened to the strain; I suddenly heard a number of voices joining with it, and then I was so much alarmed that I endeavoured to mount the slippery glacier, in order that I might obtain security for the night, where you could not expect to find me. My foot, however, unfortunately slipped and just as the sounds ceased, I fell from the glacier to the ground where

I was discovered. My errand is only of consequence to the Swiss whom I seek, and if you will direct me to them, I shall depart from you with a grateful heart, for now I see no probable end of my toil."

"Stranger," said Ulric, in a decisive tone, "you must first communicate your business to those Swiss, before I shall give you any information; when, if your answer is satisfactory to us, I will give you a clue to the band which you seek."

"I am charged, sir," returned the stranger," with a message from the patriots of Berne, who have concealed themselves in the hilly districts of that canton, and are anxious to unite themselves with the gallant heroes after whom I am in search. This sir, is the purport of my mission, and now shall I thank you for information how to continue my journey."

"Your journey is at end!" replied Ulric, whose heart swelled high with delight as he listened to the subject of the stranger's journey "you are here in the presence of the Swiss whose arms struck terror into the garrison of Zurich, therefore, throw off your fears, stranger, and refresh yourself, for you must have had a toilsome journey over mountains with which you are not acquainted. It was a lucky accident which caused us to discover you, and we have now reason to rejoice at the circumstance which at first filled us with apprehension lest our cavern should have been discovered by our enemies."

The joy of the stranger at this fortunate meeting was not less than that of Ulric; and, as he refreshed himself after his journey, he replied, to the answer of the leader, that the Bernese band amounted to about five thousand

warriors, and that they were well armed and trained; anxious for an opportunity to prove their gallantry, and fired with enthusiasm by the accounts of the deeds of the patriots of Zurich. He had been absent from his friends five days, during part of which period he had wandered over Mount Blanc, and explored every visible recess, but the mound of earth which had been thrown up at the entrance of the residence of the patriotic troop had so completely obscured its mouth that it completely escaped the stranger's notice, and would have ultimately baffled his most close research, but for the singular cause which produced the rencontre, and ended his toilsome wanderings.

Without hesitation, but on the contrary, with the utmost joy, Ulric accepted the offer of the gallant Bernese and determined to dispatch two of

the band with the messenger, to guide the division over the mountains of Zurich by the nearest passes, so that some time would be saved in the distance, and time of performing the journey. This proposition was gratefully accepted by the stranger: and, on the following day, the three travellers set forward on their journey to Berne, whence their return might be expected after an absence of little more than a week, and Ulric determined to employ the interval in widening and rendering more capacious the interior of the residence, in order that the new patriots might find themselves received into tolerable accomdations, and that the great acquisitions of numbers might not cause confusion, and injudicious pressure.

While these preparations were going on Ulric found himself at leisure to examine the state of his prospects,

which had been much illuminated by the events of the preceding day. The fear of want which had pressed heavily on his mind at that period, had been now effectually dispelled, and with a plentiful supply of provisions he had received the promise of a strong reinforcement. With the expected addition to his force, the band would be augmented to nearly nine thousand men, and it would very soon be expedient, if the multiplication of his strength should continue to answer his sanguine expectations, to emerge from the mountains, and make a second and more decisive attack upon the garrison of Zurich, since the surrender of this town to the patriotic arms must lay the foundation of Helvetian independence. It would, however be necessary, before a measure of this kind could be adopted, to obtain some decisive and

satisfactory information as to the strength of the Austrian army in the town, as well as the dispositions of the inhabitants themselves; and no way suggested itself to his mind so likely to fulfil his own wishes, and bring perfect satisfaction to his own mind, as to proceed in person to the spot. He resolved, on the instant, to assume an impenetrable disguise, as soon as his reinforcement should have arrived, and thus to explore the town of Zurich, and gain every information necessary to the promotion of his views. The gallant youth who had led the foraging band on the preceding evening with such success, he fixed upon as his companion in this enterprize, which he determined not to delay beyond the day after the arrival of his new friends, since not a moment should be lost, in gaining all the knowledge which

was requisite on such an important subject.

Eight days had elapsed, and the arrival of the friendly band was expected, on the ninth morning. Just as the rising sun had thrown his first splendour over the Alps, the distant ridges appeared covered with troops, and Ulric, who was on the tiptoe of expectation and looking out with anxiety, calling together his followers, prepared to meet them and pay that respect which they merited, and which was their due as volunteers in the same sacred cause of liberty as themselves. In less then a quarter of an hour the band was on its march over the Grisons, and before they had scarcely gained the summit of the first mountain on their way, they met with the advanced body of the Bernees army conducted by the two of the band which Ulric had sent for

that purpose. The meeting was marked by every demonstration of respect, sincerity, and delight. An universal shout rent the air, and nine thousand patriotic warriors flourished their swords above their heads and sent forth the menace of destruction against the power of oppression.

The stranger army was not a little gratified by the respectful reception which they had met with, and their joy was greatly enhanced when they perceived the commodious and secret retreat which awaited them, and where they might remain free from every fear of discovery and interruption, until the period should arrive when they might be enabled to advance in the cause which they had undertaken to espouse. The chief of the Bernese, a man of noble appearance and extensive information,

was himself struck with the convenient and secure nature of the cavern, and complimented Ulric on his ingenuity and foresight. The harp of Ap Griff was a matter of wonder to the strangers, but when they heard the strains which flowed from it, and felt the unusual enthusiasm which they excited in their breasts, their surprize increased, and their admiration was raised in an equal degree, as they confessed the power which such an instrument must possess in animating troops in the day of contention. Every heart beat with rapture; every imagination beheld the emancipation and prosperity of Switzerland, and joy and indulgence marked the day of the arrival of the Bernese.

In the course of the same evening, Ulric opened his plan to the commander of the reinforcement; to Ap

Gryff and Riesbach, his intended companion, he had previously imparted it, and although the former had started some objections to the schemes, in consequence of the dangers to which Ulric would expose himself, he suffered himself to be overruled, and give his consent to the design. The Bernese chief was readily persuaded to accede to the plan, and it was resolved that he should hold the chief command, in the absence of Ulric, and that if the latter returned not on the third morning, his friends were to conclude that some discovery of his person and scheme had taken place, and that he was in the power of the enemy. They would then take their measures accordingly, and the Bernese leader expressed his resolution, in such case, to attack the town on the next night and deliver Ulric, or perish in the attempt. After

their preliminaries were arranged, Ulric and Riesbach agreed to depart on their expedition early on the following morning; after having disfigured their faces with a liquor which completely disguised the natural features, and assumed a dress altogether foreign to their own; consisting of a long and loose cloak which was fastened round their bodies, and effectually concealed the armour which they wore, and the weapons of war which they carried beneath it. The appointed hour arrived, and the enterprizing warriors left the cavern, after taking an effectionate leave of their comrades, and renewing their promise of return, if they should remain undiscovered, at the time appointed. In a few hours they had descended to the plains of Zurich, and beheld the walls of the town before them; and soon afterwards the gates opened to

receive them, and shut them in the midst of their enemies.

At a house of reception which was well known to Ulric, but where he was himself entirely unknown, the warriors took up their residence; and, although the singularity of their dress and appearance excited some curiosity for the moment, the attraction of novelty soon ceased, and they escaped every suspicion of their real characters and motives. The first day after their arrival, they employed in drawing up an address to the inhabitants of which they circulated as many as they could prepare, and placed them by night where they might be read by all classes of people in the streets. The tenor of this address was as follows—

"SWITZERS:

"You are oppressed, bowed "down, and almost destroyed by your

" Austrian masters! Will you so easily
" relinquish the liberty which you once
" possessed? Will you bow your necks
" patiently to the yoke? Shall the
" glorious deed of Tell so quickly be
" forgotten? If you possess any of the
" spirit which animated your forefa-
" thers: if one drop of the blood of
" the antient Helvetians flows in your
" veins; if it has not entirely evapo-
" rated, and been dried up beneath
" the scorching influence of tyranny—
" rouze, and shew that you still pos-
" sess the spirit to resent injury,
" and repel insult! The power is in
" your hands; the opportunity is
" now offered to you: the recesses of
" Mount Blanc embosom an army of
" patriots whose bravery has already
" been felt by the enemy in your own
" streets. Repair to these your coun-
" trymen, who wait with open arms
" to receive you, and let the blow

"when it does fall, fall heavily upon
"those who would destroy every re-
"maining spark of independence
"which belongs to you—

"ULRIC.

The sensation occasioned by this bold address throughout the town of Zurich surpassed description, and the alarmed Austrians exerted themselves to the utmost to suppress the seditious papers, and to guard against any surprize. They could not after this consider themselves a moment secure from attack, and, accordingly, under the influence of this impression, the guards on the ramparts were increased, and every measure of precaution was adopted. Means were also resorted to, to find out the vile author of the addresses, and curiosity was equally on the alert to discover who was this bold and insolent Ulric: but curiosity and alarm were equally exerted in

vain; the mysterious unknown kept close from the public eye, and remained safe in obscurity. Yet, though obscure, Ulric was not indolent, he had before the close of the second day obtained accurate information of the precise strength of the enemy: he had discovered that, since the terrible conflict which had previously taken place in the town and on the mountain, their numbers were reduced to ten thousand men: he had also endeavoured to make himself acquainted with the dispositions of the people, but in this particular his success was only partial. He had found many who were ready in the expression of their wishes for the emancipation of the country, and numbers seemed disposed to join their services in the cause of liberty, when the band from the mountains should have gained an advantage over the common enemy.

In the mean time Riesbach had not been indolent, he had used every exertion to second the wishes and promote the views of his commander; and, with this intention, he had procured admission into the house of one of the German officers, in a disguised character, and had there the opportunity of hearing the expression of those apprehensions and suspicions which harrassed the Austrians, who considered themselves as warring not only against an unknown, but a formidable army of enemies; who knew not the numbers of their foe; but judging from the terrible specimen of their gallantry which *they* had recently received, concluded that they must be very powerful. Here also Riesbach understood that it was determined to send a division of five thousand Austrians to the mountains to discover the retreat of the Swiss, and that this

was to be done without delay, for the Governor who had succeeded to the command within the few preceding days, was terribly afraid of an attack upon the town, which might lead to the same consequences as the last, viz.—the loss of four or five thousand of his best soldiers. An opinion of the boldness of the writer of the seditious address which appeared in the town, was also given by this officer, who feared lest there might be more of the partizans of the Swiss band in the town than was commonly suspected: strict cautions, however, were to be adopted for the discovery of the unknown Ulric, as well as to prevent any further effusions of a similar nature; and guards and spies were distributed to detect any new plan of the like nature on its infancy, before it could have time to produce any of those effects which it was feared, had

been produced amongst the people by the paper alluded to; for the Governor had some reason to suppose that its impression upon the public mind was by no means superficial, but that many of the inhabitants, who had previously to its appearance, sat down patiently under the burdens which had been imposed upon them, had now presumed to utter complaints, and to give vent to mournings which might eventually lead to more violent measures.

In the evening, after Riesbach had gained this information, the two warriors were walking through the principal street, when their attention was suddenly arrested by the appearance of an immense crowd, which was proceeding along towards the residence of the Governor. Prompted by their curiosity the two strangers advanced to the mob, and endea-

voured to learn the cause of the tumult, when some person told them that a man had been taken up on suspicion of being the author of the papers which had been distributed through the town, and that the officers were taking him to the Governor to be examined. The astonishment of Ulric was not a little excited, and he pushed forward with a resolution to gain a sight of the prisoner, followed closely by his friend Riesbach, when, on a sudden, through a small opening between the crowd, his eyes caught their object, and what was his astonishment to behold in the captive, his worthy friend, the prior of Chamouny! Agonized at this sight, Ulric was at a loss what course to pursue: in a low voice, he communicated the discovery to his friend, and, extricating themselves from the throng, they followed at a short distance, deter-

mined to mark the event of this occurrence, and to consider of some plan for the release of the patriotic monk.

After a short walk the procession reached the Governor's, and Ulric and Riesbach contrived to gain admittance by securing the favour of a soldier who kept the door. The Governor himself was in readiness, mounted on a high seat, and surrounded by several of his Austrian officers; and as the prior was brought before him in a tone of haughty sternness, he exclaimed—"So my good Father Ursulo, we are at length enabled to detect you in your wicked practices. You have long been a suspected character, I understand, and it is right that a public example should be made of you. We must first however extort your confession from you; you must inform us where

the residence of this band that you have spoken of in your traitorous address lies, in order that we may exterminate the wretches who are not contented under the gentle government of the Duke of Austria, and prevent the flames of sedition from spreading still further. Come, come, quickly tell us all you know, or we must have recourse to violent measures to force you to compliance. It is necessary for our own security to make a severe example of you, in order that future miscreants may be deterred from disturbing the public peace, and exciting the public alarm in the manner you have done."

For some moments the innocent prior deigned not to reply to the insolent menaces of the Austrian; at length, however, he made answer in a cool and collected tone—"What I am expected to confess, I cannot tell,

for I have been guilty of no crime! I never distributed these papers which are attributed to me, nor have I ever seen one of them; I have not even stirred out of my priory for the last week; until this evening, and all my brethren can prove that I have only employed myself in the duties of my holy profession. If, however, you pay no credit to my assertions, but persist in carrying your menaces into execution, it becomes me to inform you of my situation and profession; and to caution you against laying violent hands on a minister of heaven! Vengeance will be showered down upon you, if you violate my person; your own convents and priories will receive the curse of heaven; your own efforts will be counteracted; your own arms will meet with constant disaster; every man will become your foe, and the sword of retributive justice will

pierce you to the heart. Let me then once more caution you to beware how you proceed; shake off that insolence which sits upon your brow, and deliberate coolly before you insul me further."

The coolness of the prior had enraged the Governor beyond bearing, while his threats, which were uttered in a tone of dignified defiance struck terror into his soul, for such was the fear of the priests and monks of the age, as to awe the greatest from running counter to their wishes, or from pursuing any measure against them, however great the provocation which might have been received, lest it should be construed into persecution, and the laity should be stimulated to interfere in favour of the ministers of heaven. The German's mind was imbued with a similar impression and while he considered the whole of

the Swiss a little better then a herd of slaves, he considered it most prudent to refrain from an act of immediate violence which might cause a tumult which could not but be favourable to the views of the band who had become so daring, and whose strength, at this moment, he was convinced was far from being inconsiderable. It would be the better plan to do what he intended under the cover of secrecy, and to immure the prior in prison until the ferment occasioned by his apprehension should have died away, in some measure, when he might without incurring any serious risk, regulate his conduct according to his wishes, and signally revenge himself upon the monk, for all the insults which he had now lauuched forth against him. Having therefore bridled his rage, he sent the prior out of the apartment,

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while he consulted with his officers, as to the propriety of his design, and having obtained their concurrence, he recalled the incarcerated monk, and in a tone of as much coolness as he could command, exclaimed—"Insolent prior! thou shalt speedily feel that thy menaces are of no avail, except to increase the punishment which impends over thee. I am not to be alarmed by high sounding words, nor empty menaces, and the truth of this thou shalt speedily know to thy cost. A long imprisonment shall bring down the haughtiness of thy spirit, and teach thee that humility which will best become thy degraded situation. I will have vengeance on thee, thou hoary traitor, for all thy vile conduct, and thou shalt find that thy profession shall not save the from my rage."

"Tis well, governor!" replied the

unmoved Ursulo, throwing as much of dignity as can be imagined into his countenance, "thou hast bid defiance to heaven, and in the name of heaven, I bid thee defiance! Ha! dost thou tremble, boaster! Tremble on. for thou shalt soon find to thy cost, that the arm which defends me is stronger than thine. I can smile at thy rage, and mock thy menaces; for I am supported by the confidence that their effects can only prove injurious to thyself. Look to thy own security, for many weeks will not elapse before, like thy two predecessors, thou wilt be hurled from thy proud seat. Lead me to my prison, but you will not long confine me there, soldiers; and if you dare to second the views of your abandoned master, and to load with ignominy the servant of heaven, you will become sharers in his punish-

ment, as you will have participated in his crime. I have now done: vengeance sleeps not, but will be let loose to execute its object, when the appointed hour shall arrive."

Here the prior concluded, and the agitated countenance of Governor, officers and soldiers proved the powerful efficacy of his words; for some moments a dead silence ensued, and every one seemed irresolute how to act. The monk enjoyed his triumph, as he perceived the alarm which he had instilled into the breasts of his enemies; and, although he had no hope that their fears would induce them to comply with his wishes, it was subject of joy to his mind, that he was enable to inflict a greater pang, than that which he endured. With a smile upon his countenance he viewed the workings of the soul of every individual, in

the contortions of his countenance; while his unruffled tranquillity tended to add fuel to the flame which already raged in the breast of the governor. Determined, however at length, not to suffer himself to be thus foiled in his intentions, he summoned up his sinking resolution, and with as firm a voice as possible, although its unsteadiness drew upon him the eyes of all around him, he again issued his commands that the insolent monk should be taken to prison, until he should have devised a proper punishment for his aggravated and multiplied offences: the trembling soldiers, awed by the penetrating frown of the prior, hesitated to obey, and it was not until the orders had been repeated in a still sterner tone, and accompanied by some violent gestures, and loud

threats of punishment if they persisted in their disobedience, that the instruments of oppression were prevailed upon to lead away their captive, which they did with the utmost tenderness, treating him rather as one who was their superior, than as an helpless prisoner.

During this scene, Ulric and Riesbach had with much difficulty controuled their feelings; more than once the impetuous spirit of the former was on the point of bursting forth into some act of violence which would have betrayed him to his enemy, and could not have been productive of any benefit to the prisoner. Fortunately, however, the youth restrained himself from any such conduct, and contented himself with fostering in his bosom the firm resolution of speedy revenge. He was at a loss what scheme to adopt for the release

of the prior, but some plan must be thought of speedily, for he could not bear the idea that the sufferings of his more than father should be unnecessarily protracted, or that he should allow himself to lose sight of the prior's liberation, even for a moment. It was not in this place that he could mature his plans, and he therefore took his friend by the arm, and drew him from the governor's residence, just as the soldiers had withdrawn with their prisoner. The sight of the procession as it proceeded along the street, reminded the friends that the first step would be to discover the place where the prisoner would be confined, and they accordingly followed the multitude at a distance, revolving and agitating various schemes, until the throng suddenly stopped, and Ulric beheld his worthy instructor led to the door of a

building which had been recently erected for the reception of offenders against the Austrian power. Scarcely had the worthy prior reached the door, when he turned himself about, and elevating his hand, a stillness succeeded, and Ulric and Riesbach rushed forward to hear what was to follow—In a few moments, the prisoner exclaimed—"Swiss, you have this day beheld the violation of one of the ministers of heaven; and I see honest indignation sparkling in your eye. The time is not remote when you will have the opportunity of inflicting vengeance on those who have treated you and me with such indignity. The liberty of Switzerland is about to be restored, and the oppression of Austria is in its wane. Reserve your indignation, and your resolution until you shall be summoned to strike a death blow at the

existence of tyranny"—He would have said more, but the alarmed soldiers, fearful lest a longer permission to issue such sentiments might draw upon themselves a signal punishment, laid hold upon him, and led him into the prison, before he could conclude his speech. Ulric and Reisbach immediately set up a shout, which spread through the whole of the throng, who with one voice exclaimed —"Switzerland and liberty!" The gates of the prison which had been attempted to be closed were instantly forced back by the violent efforts of the crowd, and in spite of the resistance of the scanty military force; the worthy prior was rescued from his enemies, and was borne in triumph on the shoulders of the people to the gates of the city.

For a moment Ulric cherished in his bosom the idea that this was the pro-

per moment for exciting a general insurrection against the German power, but the prudence and foresight of Riesbach who beheld the rising enthusiasm of his commander prevented him from rushing into an error, which might have been productive of consequences of the most serious and fatal complexion. Like every other popular impulse, the ferment was but of an hour's duration, and on the appearance of the garrison which had been summoned, on the news of the turbulence reaching the ears of the Governor, the whole of the crowd dispersed in every direction, just as they had placed Father Ursulo without the gates. Ulric's bosom was now lacerated with a thousand opposite emotions; he saw that the prior's escape was a matter of much improbability, now that the military had marched out in pursuit of him, and the people had

turned their backs upon their enemies. At one instant he determined to follow his tutor, and to defend him against insult at the peril of his own existence, but Riesbach once more interfered to preserve him, by directing the attention of the soldiers who had now come up to a remote quarter of the city, whither a considerable crowd was rushing, and where he informed them the prior was conveyed. The military force instantly gallopped off in that direction, and thus afforded the worthy monk more time to escape, and relieved the anxious apprehensions of Ulric and his friend; who immediately sought their residence lest the disappointed soldiery might return and take vengeance upon them for their false information.

Scarcely had they reached home when they heard that a detachment of Austrians had passed the gates after

the rescued prisoner, and that they had determined to retake him dead or alive. Other reports soon came in, attributing the ferment to some friends of the prior, who had gained admittance into the town, and whose object it was to excite the Swiss inhabitants to rise against the Austrian power, and an order was about to be issued to seize all strangers and take them before the Governor. Ulric and Riesbach retired as soon as they heard this information to adopt some measures to escape detection: but for some moments they were not able to suggest any plan which seemed feasible, until the idea of his father's house suddenly flashed across the mind of Ulric, and in a transport of joy, he exclaimed—"I have discovered a method which cannot fail; and we may safely bid defiance to the utmost vigilance of our inplacable enemies."

Lest the reader may be inclined to call in question the filial loveof Ulric, because he had hitherto neglected to visit his paternal cottage, it may be as well to remove the impression before it has taken root. Ulric was not insensible to those feelings of affection which nature has implanted in the human bosom; but being in the midst of enemies, and fearing lest he might be discovered as the leader of the mountain band, he had refrained from making himself known even to his parents, lest his views might be counteracted. Yet he had often stretched his walks to his paternal abode, and had lingered near the spot, concealing his face with his cloak, until he had gained a sight of those whom he longed to behold, and when he had thus gratified himself, he would tear himself from the scene, and return to the performance of those duties on which the

emancipation of his country might depend.

But now, in the moment of danger, when he could no longer securely remain in his present situation, nor retain his present disguise, he considered that there could be no spot so full of safety, as that where he should be surrounded by those who were endeared to him, and to them he was endeared, by the ties of nature. He determined therefore to entrust himself and his friends to their protection, and Riesbach having expressed his hearty concurrence in the measure, they once more quitted their insecure residence, and bent their way to the cottage of the peasant, in the suburbs of the city, and on the banks of the lake of Zurich.

In their progress, they narrowly escaped being encountered by the soldiers who had been dispatched after

the prior, and who had just returned after an unsuccessful pursuit. They had proceeded to the priory, and had ransacked the building throughout, but the monk was not to be found; he had completely thwarted the efforts of his enemies, and might now hug himself on his own superior skill. To the sinking hearts of the two warriors this intelligence, which was communicated to them by some of the people who were still lingering about the spot which the soldiers had passed, conveyed a cordial of the most exhilarating nature; and enabled them to push on their way with renewed spirits and hopes of ultimate success; since they entertained no doubt that the prior, instead of returning to his priory, would enter into some active measures for the furtherance of those schemes which involved the happiness and independence of Switzerland, and in

which their hearts were all so warmly engaged and interested.

After an hour's walk, Ulric pointed out to his companion the cottage in which he had been bred, and which now contained those who were dear to his heart, and, shortly afterwards Ulric stood upon the threshold and made himself known to his father, who advanced to learn the cause of this visit from two strangers. The reciprocation of affection which succeeded surpasses description; but when the first burst of nature had subsided, and Ulric had related the purport of his visit with his friend, his father could not restrain himself from upbraiding, in directly, the restless spirit which could induce his son thus to expose himself and his family to danger, for the old man was not without fear for his own personal

safety, if it should be discovered that the mountain chief was so nearly allied to him. Notwithstanding this fear, however, he determined to protect his son and his companion, from any pursuit which might be set on foot after them, and in a few hours, the apprehensions of the warriors were entirely banished from their breasts.

CHAPTER. VI.

ON the following morning the father of Ulric went into the town to ascertain whether there had been any inquiry made after his guests, and in a few hours he returned, much agitated, and informed the warriors that their persons and dress had been so accurately described by a proclamation which had been issued, and a reward of such magnitude had been offered, that it was scarcely possible they could escape detection if they should act with such temerity as to venture abroad. This intelligence, ungrateful as it was to Ulric, did not deter him from

resolving to learn more of the state of the public mind, and when the old man added, that a military detachment had begun to search every house in the town in quest of the two strangers, whose conduct had excited such suspicion, the youthful commander instantly declared his intention not to expose his father to danger on his account, but to enter once more into the town, and to accomplish the design with which he had undertaken this perilous journey.

Every attempt to dissuade him from his purpose,failed to produce its intended effect, and in less then an hour the two warriors were once more so completely metamorphosed that it would have been impossible even for their own band to have recognized them. Ulric had bound a bandage about his left eye, ex-

changed his garments for rags, in which he still contrived to conceal his sword, and supported by two sticks, counterfeited lameness most admirably; while his comrade with his left arm suspended in a sling, a cap drawn over his forehead, limped by his side; both their faces were disguised by a liquid which had given to the countenances a sallow hue of the most forbidding appearance. Thus changed, the adventurers re-entered Zurich, and encountered a detachment of soldiers within a few yards of the cottage which had afforded them refuge. Unintimidated by their approach, Ulric without the least embarrassment of manner, asked alms of them, and received many gifts and many curses, according to the dispositions of those whom they solicited. No one, however, seemed to suspect

that the mendicants were not such as their appearance and dress denoted them to be.

"Well comrade," said Ulric, as he entered, with his friend, into a house for public accommodation, to take some refreshment, "this has proved a lucky morning's work for us; thirty cruitzers we gained from the German soldiers, and I begin to think there is more humanity in the breast of an Austrian than I had previously imagined. Our country-men, it is true, do complain terribly of the tyrannical conduct of their masters, but I am no judge of these matters; I never trouble my head about them, while I can gain money enough to keep me from starving; though I have at bottom a good deal of love for my own country."

"Then drink confusion to her

oppressors, the tyrants of Austria," exclaimed a stranger who was sitting near them, "and here are thirty cruitzers for thee; and freely would I give ten thousand crowns to see Switzerland free."

The manners and the ejaculation of the stranger struck the warriors with surprize, and Ulric felt a secret gratification thrilling through him, as he raised the cup to his lips, and drank off the toast required. The stranger counted out the cruitzers, and offered them to Ulric, who put back the outstretched hand, after cautiously looking round the room, and seeing there was no other person present, and whispered—"we want not thy money, we are true Swiss and not what we seem to be." The stranger appeared alarmed, but recovering himself he placed his cruitzers in

his pocket, and cast an enquiring look upon the mysterious mendicants, but at that instant other strangers appeared, and Ulric in a tone of indifference, enquired what had occurred to cause such an extraordinary ferment in the town?

The stranger entered into a detail of the events of the preceding day, to which the warriors listened with much apparent avidity; and, after sitting some time which was wasted in an uninteresting conversation, they arose to depart; and the person with whom they had formed a casual acquaintance, following them to the street, requested them to accompany him to his house, as he much wished to enter into a more minute conversation, than that which they had been compelled to content themselves with, in the place where they had accidently met. For a few moments

Ulric hesitated whether to accept the invitation or the contrary; but a look from Riesbach, who pointed significantly to the place where his sword was concealed, determined the chief, and the two warriors followed their new friend through a variety of streets, all of which were well known to Ulric, until they arrived at a large and commodious house, where their guide entered, and ushered his singular companions into a private room.

"We have confided in your honor!" exclaimed Ulric, when he found that they were alone: "now then permit me to ask your motive for thus bringing us into your house, and for all this mysterious appearance of secrecy."

"Who are you?" enquired the stranger, in a voice of much precipitation. Ulric and Riesbach gazed

upon each other in silence, for several minutes, as if endeavouring to read in each other's eyes, thethoughts which occupied their bosoms. The stranger perceived their confusion, and feeling the justness of its cause, added—"I am hasty, strangers, in asking such a question, before I have proved myself worthy of your confidence. For the last five years, I have groaned for the miseries which my beloved country has been compelled to endure, under the hated dominion of the house of Austria, and anxiously have I looked for some favourable opportunity to impart similar sentiments to my own countrymen, to those who surrounded me. I have succeeded in convincing numbers of the ignominy of remaining passive under a foreign yoke, and here my efforts have been bounded: although I have much reason to believe that

there is a strong party of Swiss in this town, who would unite with any army which could be raised against the German power, I have a list of those whom I have converted to my wishes: and now having communicate toyou the whole of my conduct, I trust I may solicit that you will no longer hesitate to repay me by a similar confidence."

The fears of Ulric and Riesbach were effectually removed by this explanation, and their brightened countenances gave evidence of the joy which had taken possession of their breasts when they discovered themselves to be under the roof of a friend; of one who felt an equal ardour with themselves in the same just cause, and who exerted himself continually to further the common object of all, the emancipation of Switzerland. Without waiting for further intreaty, Ulric replied—"We

are truly grateful, gallant country-man, for the confidence you have reposed in us, and we almost regret that we gave way to that excessive caution which prevented us from imparting to you our secrets on your first interrogation. We are belonging to that mountain band, which has lately caused such terror in this town and canton, by its extraordinary prowess, and its unconquerable intrepidity, and it is with a view to ascertain the public sentiment that we have adventured into the town, and have exposed ourselves to the most imminent danger. We are repaid for the hazard we have encountered, in discovering you, and we trust that your efforts will tend to give us confidence and increasing strength. We need not explain our motives for asuming this ignoble garb; the search which has been made, and

is still making after us, is sufficient to justify our disguise. But perhaps your list may enable us to return with new comrades, who feel stimulated to join us in the cause of our country, and thus to give our friends of the mountains unequivocal proof of the growing spirit of patriotism in this canton. In that case we shall have new cause to rejoice at the happy circumstance of this fortunate meeting."

"I consider myself not a little honored by receiving under my roof two of such an illustrious band;" replied the stranger; "and this circumstance will tend to inspire me with new zeal in our common cause. During your stay in this town, take up your residence with me, and we shall thus be enabled to confer together on the best method of securing success to our endeavours; for I have

contrived, hitherto, notwithstanding my devotedness to your cause to evade the slightest suspicions of my real views and intentions: and to keep up a character of attachment to the German interests, which has ensured to me a degree of confidence on the part of our oppressors, which may be ultimately turned to very considerable advantage, and may tend to increase the probabilities of success.

Ulric and Riesbach were profuse in their acknowledgments for the kindness of their host, and accepted his offer with grateful transport, and a few hour's conversation drew still closer those ties of friendship which had been formed slightly at their first interview.

As the evening approached, Illaro, which was the name of the master of the mansion, expressed his wish to

TANJORE MAHARAJA SERFOJI'S SARASWATI MAHAL

introduce his guests to some of the most trusty of the Swiss who had expressed their readiness to join in the cause of Switzerland, a proposition which was met by the unqualified approbation of the warriors, who wished for nothing more ardently than to embrace the new recruits. Accordingly the whole trio departed, and went from house to house, until they had communed with nearly a hundred of the natives of the canton, who signified their attachment to liberty and their wish for emancipation from the tyranny of Austira, in terms of the most unequivocal nature, every one of which conveyed an unspeakable delight to the hearts of the warriors.

A hundred more according to the statement of their guide, remained yet unseen, but the lateness of the evening prevented them from proceed-

ing any further, and the party returned to the house of Illaro, and passed the residue of the night, in forming such plans as appeared most likely to accelerate the general object. It was agreed that Ulric should again venture into Zurich just before he should make his attack upon the town, and lay before his friends, a correct plan of his intended operations, so that they might be enabled to co-operate with him, and to cause a confusion and diversion within the walls, at the precise moment when an external attack should be made. These arrangements were the result of close deliberation, and occupied the principal hours of the night, until the exhausted powers of the warriors warned them to take some repose, preparatory to their entering upon the engagements of the last day they had to remain from the cavern. Ac-

cordingly they retired to rest, after congratulating each other upon the progress they had already made in arrangement and in anticipation, and for a short interval forgot the memory of oppression and the joys which gilded the prospect of redress.

The chariot of the sun had made much progress along the etherial way, before Ulric and his friend could shake off the fetters of sleep, and rouze themselves to the contemplation of the duties of the day. They, had it was true, made as much progress as could have been expected, during their short residence in the town, but it was incumbent on them, in an unabated degree, to employ the remainder of their time to the best advantage, and, to acquire a still more correct and extensive acquaintance with the public sentiment,

in order that their future proceedings might be regulated by more certainty.

Their efforts during the day, however, were not attended with much success, but a circumstance occurred which had nearly overturned the firm fabric of their hopes, and plunged them in destruction. Soon after noon, as the two friends were bending their way towards the house of Illaro, their footsteps were suddenly arrested by the appearance of a considerable crowd which were assembled round the mansion; and, on inquiring into the cause of such an unusual concourse of people, the warriors were informed to their utter confusion and dismay, that the governor had by some means gained information that two of the mountain band had been concealed in the house, and that a military

detachment was at that instant making search after the traitors. At this critical moment, in confirmation of the narrative, Illaro himself appeared at a window in a state of evident distress, and on perceiving his guests in conversation with one of the townsmen, his agony was heightened to the extreme. Making a sign, however, to comfort his host, Ulric took the arm of his companion, and turning down another street, withdrew from the scene of danger to the remotest part of the town, to consult as to the best mode of action.

It was now evident that the imprudent conduct of their host, in making them known to so many persons had been the primary cause of the discovery which had taken place; and that a secret when it is imparted to so many, ceases to be

a secret altogether. Ulric, however, endeavoured to console himself and his friend that in consequence of nothing being found in the house of Illaro to justify the accusation brought against him, he might escape punishment, and might still be enabled to carry on his designs in favour of the patriotic cause. While the friends were thus endeavouring to divest themselves of their apprehensions, they once again came in sight of the cottage of the father of Ulric, and hither they repaired to change their disguises, in order that they might still elude the vigilance of those who hunted after them.

The cottage had been entered by the soldiers, which Ulric and Riesbach had encountered, on their leaving it, who had searched it with the strictest scrutiny, but on finding no

object of suspicion, they had retired without offering violence to any one, and from that moment, no interruption had occurred. Once again the old man attempted to dissuade his son from exposing himself any longer, in an absurd chase after a phantom, and to such imminent danger as hovered about him continually, but he argued in vain. "I will stake my life upon the issue," replied Ulric, with a degree of warmth which was only justified by the importance of the subject: "and if I perish, I shall perish nobly, and sleep on the bed of heroes!" The good old man lifted up his hands and his eyes, and muttered an inarticulate prayer for the restoration of the senses of his son; for to him such sentiments and such animation savoured more of insanity than of sound reason and prudent discretion. He was obliged, however,

to desist from his endeavours to convert his son to his opinions, but he could not surrender the resolution to save his offspring, without shedding a few tears, which, had they been seen by Ulric, might have damped his patriotic ardour. The head of his father was averted, and the tears of affectionate regret which were scanty, crept down his face unperceived.

By the aid of their friends, Ulric and Riesbach soon metamorphosed themselves once more, having exchanged their mendicant weeds for the dress of German merchants of which there had recently been a considerable influx. Beneath this garb, they were enabled to wear their armour, and thus their apprehensions as to the consequences which might result from an attack, became much less irksome than before. As soon as

they had completely concealed themselves, under this new garb, they again left the protecting cottage of the father of Ulric, and the youthful chief took his farewel of those whom nature and habit had rendered dear to him, and whom he no more expected to see, until the eve of the emancipation of his country should arrive. "That will not be in our time my son!" said the old man; "therefore take a father's advice, and serve your country by tilling her soil, and procuring subsistence out of her bowels, rather than by continually fighting and rushing headlong into every kind of danger, after you dont know what!" The advice was that of cool prudence, but it was not calculated to make any impression upon Ulric, who made no reply, but pressing the hand of his

sire, turned out of the cottage, and soon lost sight of it.

As they drew near the mansion of Illaro, the wanderers beheld it forsaken by the crowd which had recently assembled round it; and, after a moment's hesitation, they determined to enter boldly under their new disguise, and to offer their late host some articles of merchandize, if they perceived that he was still annoyed by the presence of his German foes. They accordingly advanced, and Ulric knocked at the door which was opened by Illaro himself, who betrayed no surprize at the visit of the apparent merchants, as he had been long accustomed to transact business with persons of this stamp and profession. Bowing politely to his new guests, he ushered them into a private room, which was the same in which the warriors had previously

conferred with him, and having closed the door, he waited to hear an explanation of the nature of the business which had brought the merchants to him. For some moments Ulric and Riesbach looked upon each other, with hesitation, for they scarcely knew whether it would be prudent to make themselves known lest any listeners or spies might be at hand. At length, however, unabled to restrain himself any longer, in consequence of the silent surprize which was depicted upon the countenance of his host, Ulric burst into a fit of laughter, and exclaimed, as soon as he found the power of speech—"Has our disguise so completely changed us, that you cannot recognize in the German merchants, your mendicant visitors?"

The astonishment of the host was instantly superseded by a smile of

joy, as he seized the hands of his old friends, and cordially embraced them, congratulating them upon their narrow and fortunate escape from the hands of their enemies, who had departed from his residence, convinced that there were traitors in the town, although they acquitted him of giving refuge to them; and this acquittal he rather owed to his uniform good conduct previous to this period, and to his apparent loyalty to the German authorities, rather than to any other circumstance; for had he been a person of suspected conduct, it was more than probable that a signal punishment would have ensued, even though no proofs of guilt had been discovered. With respect to the cause of the suspicion, Illaro professed his entire ignorance, for he expressed his fullest confidence in the fidelity and attachment of all

the persons to whom he had introduced his friends: yet there must have been some outlet by which the secret had escaped, some channel by which it had reached the ears of the Austrian Governor, and it was to be lamented lest from the same source fresh information might be afforded to their enemies, which might at length cause suspicion to alight again on the house of Illaro, and might fix upon his name a taint which could not be removed, but might have a tendency to counteract their wishes and projects. It was therefore incumbent on Illaro to keep his future conduct entirely free from any appearance of disaffection, so as to preserve, in the estimation of the Germans, that character which would enable him to carry on his designs more successfully, and with less probability of interruption. Ulric and

Riesbach agreed in the propriety of such a measure, and determined to shorten their visit, lest even their appearance, under their present disguise, coming from the house of their friend, might be liable to an injurious misconstruction. They had, accordingly, just repeated those arrangements which had been previously made, respecting the future co-operation of the bands, and Ulric had taken his leave, and was about to take his departure, when a sudden and loud knocking was heard at the gate of the mansion, and Illaro looking out, retreated with terror in his looks, and exclaimed—"Seek your own safety: the military detachment is returned!" Saying this, he led his guests hastily to a private entrance into his garden, and pointing out a way over the fields, by which they might escape, he hastened back to receive his unwelcome visitors, while

Ulric and Riesbach with all the fleetness in their power kept on, their way through the garden, but on arriving at the extremity, what was their surprize and consternation to find the door by which they were directed to make their escape fastened. It was evident that Illaro, in the perturbation of his feelings, had forgotten to give to his friends the key by which they might have made their egress; but as it was impossible to escape by this way, the warriors were under the necessity of looking round the spot in search of some other way; and their search was soon crowned with the desired success, and a prospect of eluding the pursuit of their inveterate foes once more opened to them.

On one side of the garden, the wall was much injured, and in a particular part, the stones had fallen off; and rendered a passage practicable to

persons of superior agility. Such were the warriors, and when their natural activity was stimulated by the idea that life was endangered by a longer delay in this perilous situation, they hesitated not a moment to scale the ruinous fence, and had speedily the satisfaction of finding themselves out of the garden of Illaro. But they seemed to have emerged from one difficulty, only to involve themselves in another; for they were totally ignorant of the spot on which they had placed themselves: it might be a place of security, or it might, on the contrary, be full of more danger than the one they had left, for aught they could say to the contrary. At all events, since they were in it, it was their duty to find a way out of it, and to this task they betook themselves with an earnestness and solicitude which few people ever exceeded in their own experience.

Around them were the backs of houses, which entirely shut out every scene, but the sky and the sun, which shot its perpendicular rays upon their heads, and a violent noise being heard in one of the dwellings, Ulric suddenly caught hold upon a projecting beam, and, with the agility of a squirrel ascended to the top of the house next to him, followed by Riesbach, and the two friends had speedily the satisfaction to find themselves securely sheltered from observation by a shelving part of the roof, behind which they seated themselves, and calmly waited to behold the result of the disturbance which had alarmed them.

From the situation which they had taken, the warriors had also a view of the street, although they were themselves secured from discovery even on that side, and they soon perceived that the crowd which had encompassed

the entrance of Illaro's residence were busily shifting their quarters, and removing to the residence on which they had taken refuge. In a short time the military detachment which had caused them so much terror, appeared in the yard behind, which they themselves had just quitted, and, after searching round it very carefully, the whole body crossed the wall of Illaro's garden, and immediately disappeared, leaving the objects of their pursuit happy, and more secure in their own estimation than they had previously been.

It was some time after the departure of the soldiers, and the dispersion of the mob, before Ulric and Riesbach thought it prudent to think of descending from their asylum: until, at length, the recollection of their promise to return to the cavern, before day-light on the following morning,

induced them to banish every apprehension and to make a desperate effort to escape their enemies. After much consideration it was deemed more prudent to descend by the same way they had ascended, rather than to expose themselves in the public street, and to recross the wall of the garden, and once more find Illaro, and gain his assistance to enable them to effect their purpose. The task was easily accomplished, and after a slight exertion, the two warriors found themselves once more standing in the garden of their recent host, and hesitating how to proceed. The hesitation was but momentary, and bodly marching to the house, Ulric entered an open door, and followed by Riesbach, made directly for the chamber to which they had been already twice introduced.

The silence which reigned through-

out the mansion struck some little terror into the bosom of the chief, for the fate of his friend, and made him proceed with more caution and less resolution. At length, the door of the room appeared, and Riesbach laid his hand upon it, when it flew open, and discovered Illaro bound, and a soldier with a drawn sword, standing over him. No sooner did he perceive the entrance of the strangers, than the Austrian advanced to punish them, with a bitter execration, but as quickly started back on perceiving the sword of Riesbach opposed to him. There was no time for hesitation now, and while his comrade entered into a short contest with the guard, Ulric cut the bands of his friend, and intreated him, in a whisper, to fly with them, and take up his abode in the cavern. Illaro consented, and hastened out of the apartment to provide

himself with a disguise, while Ulric turned him to assist Riesbach, but his friend needed not his aid, for the German had received fatal evidence of the superior skill and courage which directed the arm of his unknown adversary, and had paid for h s temerity with his life. The body was immediately removed from the middle of the room, and was concealed behind a large chest which stood in a corner, so as to escape observation until sought for.

By the time this was concluded, Illaro returned so completely metamorphosed, that at his entrance into the apartment, Ulric was on the point of rushing to seize him, lest he might prove an enemy, and was only prevented by his host bursting into a fit of laughter, which discovered to the warrior his mistake. Riesbach put into the hands of the fugitive the

sword of the soldier, which Illaro concealed under his cloak, and thus equipped, the two entered once again into the garden, and in a few minutes passed the door which had before been an obstacle to the escape of the friends and found themselves in a bye part of the town, which led to the fields, and from which they were divided by a deep and wide ditch, over which they had already determined to swim, as they should thus escape the gates of the town.

During their walk, Illaro began to recapitulate the events which had taken place in the interval of their absence from each other. As soon as he went to ascertain the cause of the alarm which had driven Ulric and Reisbach into the garden, he found himself seized by the military detachment which had previously visited his residence, and had returned upon in-

formation that the two traitors had just re-entered the house of Illaro, in the disguise of German merchants. This they communicated to the trembling prisoner, who strenuously denied that any such persons were, or had been in his house, and expressed his entire innocence. His apparent firmness staggered the commander of the detachment, who proceeded however to search the dwelling, and finding therein nothing to bear out the charge against the supposed culprit, went into the next house, and made a similar search and with similar success. Finding that he had been completely misled, the officer drew off his detachment; but, in order that his vigilance might not be called in question, he left a soldier to keep watch over Illaro, until he could take the Governor's pleasure as to what further steps he was to pursue. The interval was

full of apprehension to the unhappy prisoner, who regretted that he had not accompanied his guests, rather than have thus exposed himself to an uncertain hazard. While he was thus giving way, however, to gloomy apprehensions, the unexpected return, and vigorous conduct of the warriors extricated him from his difficulties, and again opened the prospect of escape.

By the time that Illaro had concluded his relation, the three travellers reached the ditch which bounded this part of the town: and Ulric, without hesitation, plunged into the waters, whither he was promptly followed by Riesbach and Illaro, and after a few minutes' exertion they found themselves safely landed on the opposite bank. Here they paused for a while to rest themselves, and recover their strength and composure; but, just as

they were about to proceed, a confused tumult which proceeded from behind a low part of the town wall which stretched close to them, struck some alarm into their bosoms. Ulric listened for an instant, and his terror was not a little increased, when he heard—" The death of the soldier convinces me that Illaro must have had some accomplices, and I am certain they must have escaped from the town, by the ditch; for the gates are closed, and too well guarded for them to have departed that way."

The warriors felt the influence of fear; but no time was to be lost in hesitation, and Ulric, placing his finger on his lips, beckoned his companions, and ran with the utmost speed over the fields, which divided them from the foot of the nearest mountain, which they quickly gained, and with unabated rapidity ascended the first

eminence where they paused to look around them, and see if there were any marks of their pursuers, for they were convinced that they were pursued.

The day was now visibly contracting itself, and distant objects became very indistinct: but Ulric pointed out to his companions a detachment, which was dimly seen moving with much celerity towards the spot where they were standing. "Our retreat to the cavern will be scarcely practicable I fear!" exclaimed he, "but we must make a new exertion!" Saying this he bounded forward with the agility of a chamois, and followed by his companions, soon found himself upon a ridge of much greater elevation, from which he plainly distinguished his enemies gaining ground considerably, and saw sufficient of their progress to convince him that they must overtake him and

his friends, before they could possibly make their way to the summit of the acclivity which raised its gigantic brow immediately over their heads. He determined, therefore, to look out for some cavern, in which they could remain secure, until the approaching danger should have passed, and left them once more at liberty to pursue their way, or to adopt any other measures for their preservation.

The proposition was grateful to Riesbach and Illaro, and a few minutes were successfully employed in looking around them for some spot which should appear calculated to answer the desired purpose. A dark and gloomy chasm which stretched its horizontal gulph into the bowels of the mountain was discovered behind a jutting stone, which protruded itself before the entrance and rendered it so narrow as only to admit a single in-

dividual at a time. Drawing his sword, Ulric boldly adventured into this dreary abode, and was followed by his two comrades, and scarcely had they made themselves still more secure, by rolling a large stone, which they found within the recess, to its mouth, and thus rendered it absolutely imperceptible to the most scrutinizing eye, when the sounds which assailed their ears, announced the near approach of their enemies, and warned them to preserve a strict silence, if they hoped for security from search.

The detachment halted just before the entrance into the cave. "Well, Redburgh," exclaimed a hoarse voice; "we have hitherto met with no success, but I am confident the rascals cannot have proceeded much further, for I'll be sworn that I saw them on the first eminence, and there is no other path which they could have

allowed. But here we are now at a stand: for two paths stretch before us: and whether we shall continue to climb the mountain, or turn off to the left, and take the road to the castle of Zur, I cannot instantly decide. The Count who inhabits that castle is of very doubtful loyalty; and there is some reason to suppose that he countenances these traitors: if that is the case, the villains may have reached his residence, and found an asylum there, for it's not above a mile from this place. What say you, Redburgh, shall we climb the mountain, or take the path to the left?

"If I may advise, captain," returned a different voice, "I should first persuade you to ascend another eminence at least, and if we find at last that they have baffled us there, we are sufficiently strong to return and attack the Castle of Zur without he-

sitation. Besides it will then be nearer midnight; and that will be much the best time to attack the castle with a prospect of speedy success; and we may take a signal and sanguinary vengeance on the fugitives and their protectors. I have myself heard enough of the Count of Zur to be perfectly satisfied that an attack upon his castle will be a sure way to gain the favor of the Governor, who has a mortal hatred towards him. My plan therefore, captain, is to proceed up the mountain towards the spot where we suspect the retreat of the banditti is situated, and then if we are unsuccessful, to contrive an arrangement so as to reach the neighbourhood of the Castle of Zur about the time, when the greatest silence and serenity prevail."

"Well advised, comrade," returned the captain; "and as you have sug-

gested so shall it be: but we must be pretty cautious in our movements, lest we run our heads into danger, for this band that inhabits the tops of these mountains are very strong and desperate fellows, and if we approach so near, as to awaken their suspicions of our intentions, we may for ever bid farewel to the walls of Zurich. I was in the battle when the last Governor was killed; and, by the virgins and all her attendant saints, I should not much like to meet them, adventurous as I am in general, not even if we were equal in point of numbers. We have yet six hours good until midnight, and in that time we may be able to ransack the mountains completely; and hunt out every recess. To begin, therefore, soldiers, let us investigate this part well for there may be some caves here which may serve as a receptacle to

the fellows of whom we are in pursuit. To him that shall take the first, I offer a reward of one hundred cruitzers."

Stimulated by the hope of a reward, the detachment dispersed themselves in various directions, and began to pry into every cavity, which the imperfect twilight permitted them to discover; and, at length, one of the soldiers seated himself on the rough edge of the stone which the warriors had rolled to the mouth of their retreat and which had jutted out from its mouth. The stone receded from the weight of the man, who actuated by curiosity, or perhaps some stronger motive, pushed the retiring stone still further, until the mouth of the cavern became plainly exposed to his view. "This may lead to something favourable!" exclaimed the soldier to his comrade who was standing

near him; let us examine the contents of this cave." Saying this he set foot within the gloomy recess.

The entrance of two soldiers was not in itself a circumstance much calculated to alarm the warriors, who would not have feared to oppose five times the number; but unless something prompt was done, it might lead the rest of the detachment into the cave. He accordingly waited for the approach of the enemy, who was rendered perceptible by the dim light which played about the entrance, and, at the moment, that he was sufficiently immerged, the sword of Ulric checked his progress for ever. A deep groan burst from the wretch, as he breathed out his existence, when Ulric, who had accurately noticed the voice of the deceased, exclaimed in a faultering tone, and as if labouring under severe pain—"Do not come

on, comrade, here is a dreadful abyss, into which I have fallen, and if you would avoid my fate, do not come any further. Oh! blessed virgin: receive a dying wretch to thy favour!"

The other soldier who had already appeared at the entrance of the cave, alarmed at the fate and the supposed exclamation of his comrade, replied, in a voice of terror—"not for ten thousand cruitzers would I enter this or any other cavern. Let the captain explore the holes of the mountain, if he wishes to have them explored. My poor comrade: thou hast met with an untimely fate indeed, and thy end will be a warning to me not to trust myself in concealed danger." A deep sigh burst from the bosom of the affrighted soldier, as he uttered these words, and turning himself precipitately about, his presence no longer darkened the nar-

row entrance into the retreat of the warriors.

Shortly after the disappearance of the enemy from the cave, the voice of the captain was again heard calling together his scattered detachment, and in a moment he was distinctly heard to exclaim—"Curse the traitors, this is the first of our brave troop that we have lost through them, but we will be amply revenged, when once we have discovered the renegades. I am not fond of sending my gallant fellows into such cursed gloomy holes, but we must be vigilant and prying, or we shall never find those after whom we are employed to seek."

"Shall I lead up the mountain, captain?" returned a voice which the warriors recognized to be that of him who was called Redburgh. "Yes," replied the captain. The troop was

instantly in motion; their retiring steps were heard less distinctly; their curses, and menaces which were elicited in lavish profusion, sounded more faintly; the apprehensions of Ulric and his companions gradually subsided; and their hopes arose. At length no trace was seen, nor sound heard of the departed enemy, and the three wanderers emerged from their gloomy abode; after having taken the arms of the deceased soldier: and once more stood under the dark canopy of heaven: and began to consult with each other as to the best mode of procedure, now the immediate danger had vanished.

The consultation was but of short continuance; for independent of the necessity for promptitude lest the enemy might return before they had left the spot; there could scarcely be a difference of opinion:

since the soldiers had now intercepted their way to the cavern, and had consequently rendered any attempt to proceed thither impracticable and, as the Castle of Zur was within so short a distance, and was to be attacked at midnight, it was a duty incumbent on them to warn their patron of his danger, and to give their assistance in repelling it. Ulric also felt another motive, not less powerful, which urged him to proceed to the castle, and this was the hope of seeing his Florida, and of receiving a rewarding smile for the part he had already taken in fighting the battles of justice and patriotism. The friends unanimously agreed as to the expediency of this measure, and in a few minutes, they struck off into the path which branched to the left, and pursued their way by the dim light of the stars which began

to emerge and stud the murky canopy of heaven, and give a more cheerful appearance to the countenance of night.

Through ways almost impassable and scarcely known Ulric led his friends, until he found himself under the walls of the Castle of Zur; when seizing the horn which he had so frequently sounded before, he blew a blast so loud and clear, that instantly the alarmed domestics appeared at almost every window with the lights, anxious to discover the nature and numbers of the intruders. They were, however, unable to penetrate the gloom of the night; and, in a few minutes, the voice of the warder was heard requiring who was demanding admittance, and what was the nature of the business which the strangers sought to transact? The well known voice of Ulric soon dis-

pelled every fear; the massy chains from which the draw-bridge was suspended, rattled loudly; and Ulric and his friends speedily trod that court which the youth had so often paced before, 'ere he knew the toils of war.

CHAPTER VII.

So completely were Ulric and his companions concealed under the disguises which they had assumed, that the porter, after he had admitted them, began to fear that he had been betrayed into an error, and had in reality admitted within the castle-yard some persons who came with an evil design. The circumstance of their being so weak in numbers, indeed, tended to calm the rising fears of the old domestic, and when he gained a full sight of the countenance of Ulric all his apprehensions vanished in a moment: and full of joy, he hastened into the castle to communicate the

delightful intelligence of the arrival of Ulric—

The blast of the horn had somewhat alarmed even the Count, who seizing his sword prepared himself for any sudden attack, and he was standing in the hall of his castle, attended by he weak and trembling Florida, when the domestic announced the grateful news that it was Ulric and two strangers, who had caused this terror throughout the building. A scream of transport burst from Florida whose overflowing delight could not be restrained until it had found a vent. Her transport, however, was checked by an expression of the Count—" Give not way to joy, until you know the cause of Ulric's return; perchance his gallant band may have fallen victims to the artful treachery of our malignant enemy, and he and his companions alone have escaped to

convey the sad tidings to my ear." The idea was painful and afflicting, but it had scarcely passed from the mind of the Count to his lips, before the door opened, and the three disguised patriots stood in the presence of their patron, and bowed their heads in token of respect.

Scarcely had Ulric returned the salute of the Count, and stolen a pressure of Florida's hand, before the impatient noble eagerly enquired to what cause he was to attribute this hasty visit; whether any accident had occurred to the mountain band: or any circumstance had transpired to render his advice, and assistance necessary to their cause.

The anxiety of the Count was soon relieved by the relation of Ulric of the events which had recently taken place, and of the design of the Austrian detachment to make an at-

tack upon the castle when the midnight hour should arrive. The nobleman was rejoiced to hear of the increase of numbers which the patriots had experienced, and of the spirit of enthusiastic valour which raged amongst them, from which he augured the happiest results. The defence of his castle he trusted to his gallant guests, and, after giving the necessary orders for the multiplication of the guards at the different posts, the security of the drawbridge, and the occupation of the ramparts, for the collecting of the vassals, and the preparations of the arms and other means of defence, he invited his visitors to partake of some refreshment which was necessary after the toils and dangers they had encountered since they tasted food.

During the entertainment, Ulric was seated by the side of his Florida,

and while the Count and Riesbach and Illaro were discoursing on the means of defending the castle, and of the future views of the mountain band, he was feasting his eyes on her whom his heart loved, and was increasing her happiness by the renewal of his vows of unalterable affection, while from her lips he received assurances of unchargable affection. Scarcely did the lovers allow themselves to taste of food, so engrossed were they by each other's conversation, and by the transport which flowed from this unexpected and joyous meeting. At length, however, their joys were interrupted by the removal of the board, and the interference of the Count, who asked the opinion of Ulric as to the best means of defending the castle with effect, and so as to bring about a speedy abortion of the schemes of the enemy, who might soon be expect d under the walls.

The gallant youth smiling contemptuously at the insignificant force of the enemy, requested his patron to give him one hundred of his vassals with which he would post himself in a deep glen near the castle, and when the foe had commenced their attack, he would execute a project which could not fail to cause them much confusion, and would at once secure the palm of victory. The count, however, would not exactly accede to his proposal, but suggested that the command of this body might be given to the brave Riesbach, and that he should himself remain in the castle by his side, and make those dispositions within the walls which were best calculated to ensure a flattering and decisive result. Ulric acquiesced in this arrangement; and, about an hour before midnight, Riesbach departed from the castle, accompanied by about one hundred

and fifty of the Count's vassals, while Ulric posted the remaining four hundred aronud the walls, and at those parts where their services were most likely to be required. These movements were speedily carried into effect; and Ulric and the Count congratulated each other on their complete preparation to give the haughty and unprincipled Germans a reception which they little expected, and were little able to bear.

In the mean time the amiable Florida was removed with the females of the castle, to a remote apartment, in order that their presence and terror might not operate to unnerve the arms of their defenders, in the hour of battle. Florida, however, could not take her temporary leave of her Ulric, without enforcing the advice she had before more than once given to him, that he should be

careful of his own safety, and not expose himself to unnecessary danger. The youth received her caution with all the gallantry of a lover, and replied to it with the intrepidity of a hero. He would do his duty, and his fate was in the hands of the blessed virgin to whom he should commend himself. Obliged to remain satisfied with this vague answer, the trembling fair-one seized the hand of Ulric, and pressing it fervently to his lips, put up a prayer for his preservation, and, with tearful eyes, traced her way to the distant apartments: while Ulric went round the ramparts, exhorting the vassals to do their duty, and to teach their haughty enemies, that they had something stronger than stone walls to contend with, and that was the unconquerable and united valour of a faithful troop who would rather perish than taste of

dishonour. With shouts of exultation the inspired soldiers answered his exhortations, and vowed to conqner or perish at their posts.

The midnight hour had just turned, when an alarm was given by the vassals on the ramparts of the approach of an armed detachment. Every one was instantly in motion, but the utmost stillness was maintained, the more effectually to deceive the assailants, who approached with the utmost confidence, vainly imagining that the besieged were all locked in the arms of repose, or lulled into a fancied and fatal security. Their first step was to range themselves along the side of the moat, where they paused for some minutes, as if undetermined in what way to proceed. The hesitation, however, was extremely short; and, at a signal, about one hundred soldiers plunged

silently into the moat, and had nearly reached the bank of the castle-court when a tremendous and well directed flight of arrows from the battlements sent nearly one half of the number to their everlasting home. The consternation of the enemy at this unexpected assault cannot be imagined. "We are betrayed and prepared for!" burst from many lips at the same instant; and fear seemed for some time so completely to have paralysed them, that they were incapable of any further exertion. In the mean time, taking advantage of their hesitation, the garrison of the castle poured forth a second volley of missiles, which were scarcely less fatal in their effects than those which had preceded them, choaking up the moat with the carcases of the slain.

Despair and revenge now took

possession of the bosoms of the Germans, who with one impulse leaped into the moat, and struggled to gain the opposite shore, when they found themselves suddenly attacked in their rear by the vassals under the command of Riesbach who galled them so severely, that only one half of the troop reached the castle yard, where they found themselves suddenly assailed by Ulric, who had issued from the gates with a band of vassals, and spread destruction into the ranks of his opponents. The Germans, however, were not disposed to sell their lives easily; but, finding themselves cut off from all hopes of victory or escape, they made the most desperate efforts to retrieve by individual valour what had been lost by the folly and rashness of their captain, who had thus, without cause or provocation,

led his followers into the jaws of inevitable destruction.

In the mean time, the vassals under Riesbach, following the the example of the leader, leaped into the moat, as soon as they saw their enemies fairly engaged in an attack upon the castle walls, and having safely gained the opposite shore, had come suddenly and violently upon the rear of their enemy. The attack now became general, for the enemy amounted to more in point of numbers, than Ulric and his friends had at first calculated, and the obstinacy of the conflict was equal on both sides. An unfortunate blow from a soldier had struck the Count to the earth, and the captain of the detachment was on the point of directing a second stroke at his head, which must have proved fatal, when Ulric darted between, and catching the blow on his sword,

returned it with such fury as to shiver the helmet of the leader of his enemies, and to cause him to reel for several paces backward. Recovering himself, however, in a moment, the enraged captain rushed forward once more to revenge himself on his unknown assailant, but once more his course was checked, and Ulric's weapon became opposed to his. A furious contest now ensued, in which both displayed the utmost skill and determination, and neither, after the fight had been maintained upwards of an hour, seemed in the least inclined to yield, when a sudden blow from Ulric, struck his enemy lifeless to the earth, and sealed his claim to victory. No sooner did the soldiers behold the fall of their commander, than they were stimulated to new vigour by a youth who assumed the command, and whom from his voice, Ulric soon

perceived to be no other than the one who had answered to the name of Redburgh. He exhorted his diminished followers to revenge the death of their captain, and to follow him to victory or death. The goal he sought for, he speedily found, for in the outset of his career, while the words of encouragement still hung upon his tongue, the sword of Riesbach struck him to the earth, and sealed his lips for ever, while his terrified followers, for a moment, gazed upon his lifeless body, and then rushed out to a new assault with the vigour of desperation, in which numbers of them bit the dust.

Thus continued the conflict, until the weakened numbers of the enemy scarcely exceeded one hundred men, and these finding it in vain to fight for victory, and preferring flight and inglorious security to the glorious

death of heroes, rushed from the fight, and, precipitating themselves into the moat, essayed to reach the opposite bank and to make their escape from a scene which had proved to them so fertile in horror and destruction. Ulric, however, on perceiving their intention, ordered the drawbridge to be lowered, and rushing forth with a chosen body of vassals, prepared to intercept their flight, by interposing himself between them and the town of Zurich, and thus cutting off their retreat. With his troop ranged across the only path which was open to the fugitives, he awaited their arrival for nearly half an hour, when the sounds of their approach greeted his listening ears, and summoned him once more to prepare to enter into the rough encounter.

Scarcely fifty men appeared of all

the hostile detachment, and these so miserable, worn and wearied by fatigue and horror, that Ulric would rather have administered comfort than destruction to them, had not such conduct been rendered inexpedient, by the violence with which they rushed on to the new fight, when they beheld their opponents drawn up in their way to receive them: it was the violence of despair, and like the struggles of exhausted nature, was the prelude to destruction. Unwilling to sell their lives cheaply, and sternly refusing to accept the proffered mercy of Ulric, the furious band fought until the last, and continued to defend themselves even when scarcely three remained undestroyed. Determined to terminate the slaughter of the night, Ulric ordered his followers to stay their hands, and spare the devoted wretches, whose

enormity would be of no further avail. The vassals checked their uplifted swords, but the obstinate and maddened Austrians, resolved not to survive the ignominy of the fight, rejected the humanity of their antagonists with disdain, and returned it only with the bitterest curses and the most horrid executions, which they gave utterance to, to induce the vassals to dispatch them. But Ulric still refrained, and contented himself with ordering his men to take them alive, and to convey them prisoners to the castle, when finding every other method ineffectual, the three desperadoes turned their own weapons upon themselves, and before they could be prevented from effecting their purpose, had opened in their own breasts a passage for their souls.

Ulric could not repress a sigh to

the memory of the soldiers who had thus preferred death to ignominious imprisonment; and, as he retraced his way to the castle, his heart mourned over the destruction which his sword had made. When he reached the castle, however, the shouts of triumph which greeted him on his arrival dispelled every unpleasant reflection; and the joy which arises from the achievement of victory sat upon his brow. The praises of the Count were lavishly bestowed on Ulric, and his companions: for Illaro, who had fought by the side of the Count, had given evident proofs of heroism which convinced the nobleman and the youthful chief that his valorous arm would be no insignificant acquisition to the band of the mountains: but that it would prove of material service in hewing down those mighty obstructions which existed betwixt them and

the independence of their beloved country.

The moon which now arose in all her silvery splendour shed a pallid hue upon the sanguinary scene, and displayed the distorted and furious countenances of the fallen enemies, hideous in death from the angry expression which the hand of death had arrested, and fixed upon their brows. To remove the carcases was a duty which Ulric wished to see immediately performed, as his stay could only be for a few hours longer, and he feared lest the sight of the ghastly deceased should affect his Florida with too powerful an emotion. It was in vain that the Connt endeavoured to prevail upon Ulric and his companions to remain at the castle for a longer period, the youth silenced his noble host, with a single expression—"If we return not this morning, the moun-

tain band will force the gates of Zurich, before sunset." This was a sufficient argument to check the solicitations of the noble Count; who afterwards contented himself with pressing his visitors to partake of refreshment once more to give them strength for the renewal of their journey. Reisbach and Illaro consented; but Ulric sought to refresh himself with the banquet of love.

He sought his Florida in the inner apartments of the castle, and, when he found her, she was already wearied with disappointed expectation; for nearly two hours had elapsed, since the termination of the contest, and Ulric came not to congratulate his Florida, nor to receive from her the smile of gratitude and the kiss of affection. The youth, however, soon pleaded a sufficient apology for his absence; and in the company of his

love, past toils and dangers were forgotten, and even the duties which yet remained to be performed were for a moment lost sight of amidst the excessive blaze of happiness which swallowed up every other consideration. The minutes, however, refused to tarry, and ere the lovers had said one half of what they wished to say, the voice of Reisbach (for the first time unwelcome) summoned the youthful chief to take his departure from the scene of his felicity, and to hasten to relieve the anxiety of their comrades, who were doubtless even before this hour, on the look out for them. The summons was promptly obeyed, for the call of his comrade had rouzed the warrior again in the breast of Ulric, and, seizing the hand of Florida, he pressed it fervently to his lips; and uttered an animated farewell which called up the smile of joy to

illuminate a countenance in tears—"We shall soon meet again, my angel!" exclaimed Ulric, "my prospects have increased in brilliance since I quitted the castle, and, under the blessing of the virgin, the emancipation of our country is not so remote as some may imagine. I feel a confidence that many months will not elapse before I shall return to Zur to claim my bride, and to lay at her feet the spoils of Austria. Till then, farewell; let your matin and your vesperal song ascend up to Heaven, and draw down that success which the justice of our cause deserves: the virgin and the saints cannot refuse to hear so lovely and amiable a suppliant as you: your prayers will be not less efficacious than our swords."

"In a short and private interview, the Count impressed upon Ulric the necessity of curing his natural im-

petuosity, and remaining close in the cavern, until his force received a new augmentation: for although his present strength might be competent to the capture of the town of Zurich, still it was not sufficient to preserve the fruits of victory, until such reinforcements could be obtained as would bid effectual defiance to the armies of Austria. To the personal intrepidity and general prudence of his young friend, the Count paid the highest compliments, and they penetrated to the heart of the youth, and raised an ardour of the most inextinguishable nature to merit by his future behaviour those praises which were so dear to him. He promised the strictest observance of the advice of his patron; and when he took his leave, he felt his hopes heightened, and departed inspired with a full assurance that he should soon see the

Castle of Zur again under happier auspices, when victory should have crowned his exertions, and bound her laurels round his brow.

When the warriors had left the castle the grey dawn of morning appeared mantling over the mountains, and 'ere they had half ascended the second acclivity, wearied as they were by the exertions of the past night, the rising sun completely dispelled the mist of night, and gave to their view the surrounding scenery, when to the consternation of Ulric, he beheld stretched on the declivity beneath him, a number of straggling soldiers, a circumstance which convinced him that the whole of the Austrian detachment which they had contended with had not marched to the castle, but that a part had remained on the mountains to intercept *their* retreat. Fortunately for the

warriors the troop appeared to be fast locked in sleep, and they accordingly pushed forward with increased agility to gain some concealment before any of their enemies should awake and discover them. In a short time they succeeded in reaching the summit of their eminence, and their hopes of escape once more revived, in proportion to the increasing distance betwixt them and their foes. They suffered not themselves to delay their progress for a moment, but forgetful of their bodily fatigue, and anxious only to reach their comrades, they began to mount another elevation, and had about half gained their object, when pausing to survey the vast scene below them, they perceived the military in motion up the declivity at the foot of which they were stretched when the three patriots first perceived them.

"They have discovered us, comrades," exclaimed Ulric; "and we must depend entirely on our own agility and superior knowledge of the recesses of the mountain for our escape; for they are fresh, and gain ground upon us very considerably." Having succeeded in gaining the summit of the acclivity, they again looked below them, and found a confirmation of the suspicions of Ulric, in the increased rapidity with which the enemy advanced. Close to the spot where the warriors stood were three distinct paths, neither of which led to the cavern, but the way thither was unbeaten and indistinguishable. It lay amidst formidable glaciers and ridges which appeared almost impassable, appalling the eye with their roughness and sterility. Amidst these ridges and glaciers Ulric led his comrades and they were speedily concealed

from the view of any that might pass along the paths which they had left; and here, close at the mouth of a horrible chasm, they waited in readiness to immerge themselves in the impenetrable gloom, if the approach of their pursuers should render such a measure necessary. Their front was sheltered from observation by a shelving glacier, part of which equally defended them on each side.

In this secure position they remained for some time, until their ears were greeted by sounds of the most boisterous nature, which evidently proceeded from the roads which lay a little to their left. A loud voice was soon heard, exclaiming—"Let a division take each of the paths, and then we cannot fail to do right!" The sounds immediately ceased, and the warriors, freed from any further apprehensions for the present, resumed

their way, keeping low amidst the surrounding eminences, and cautiously avoiding even the slightest elevation, lest they might be exposed to view. Thus they continued for nearly half an hour, when Ulric, suddenly starting back, exclaimed, in a low tone,—"By the saints, one of the roads which the soldiers have taken intercepts our passage just beyond this rock, and this circumstance never occurred to me before; so that we are again placed in a situation of peril and difficulty. We shall therefore act wisely in remaining where we are, concealed behind the glacier, until we have either heard the enemy return, or have waited so long as to render it probable that they may have passed the cavern, which lies within the distance of an hour's walk from the spot where we now are." The advice was relished

by the two companions of Ulric, since they confidently relied on his dexterity and prudence for their extrication from every danger, however imminent and pressing.

The event justified the caution which had been adopted: the warriors had scarcely taken their stations, before they plainly heard the foe returning, and in a very short time, the Austrians had entirely passed by the asylum of the warriors and were heard no more. No sooner was this danger gone by, than the latter once again emerged, and speedily found themselves winding their intricate course amidst a new complication of rocks and ridges, until they came within a few minutes' walk of their destination. Here another difficulty occurred, but as it was the last, the warriors determined to meet it without hesitation. A glacier of tremendous height up-

lifted its giant form, and it was necessary to climb over it to gain the cave, which was situated close behind it: there was no way of skirting this prodigious eminence, and it was probable, that in making their way over its summit, they should be exposed to the certain discovery of their pursuers who might be about the mountains, from every part of which they could not fail to be distinctly visible. There was, however, no alternative, and Ulric, accordingly, led the way boldly to the top of the glacier, where he paused and cast an anxious look on the comprehensive scenery which his eye embraced. Various parties of the Austrian troops appeared in different directions, and various degrees of distance, but the chief flattered himself that he and his companions had completely eluded their observation; and full of confidence in

this idea, he quitted the summit, and passed rapidly down the slippery sides, until he found himself once more standing at the entrance of the cave where his followers reposed.

The sound of Ulric's voice as he congratulated his companions on their safe arrival, penetrated the ears of Ap Gryff and the band, and the old bard, unable to restrain his transport, rushed to the entrance, and catching his pupil to his arms, wept from excess of joy. The gratified troops also sent forth a cheering shout at the sight of their commander, which caused his heart to beat high with exultation, and called the tears of grateful feeling from his eyes. The chief of the gallant Bernese, who, was not the last to express the delight he felt at the joyous prospect which opened on his sight, when he hailed the safe arrival of his powerful and vigorous col,

league, from whose skill, prudence and bravery he anticipated such glorious results as would hand their fame down to posterity.

On his entrance into the cave, Ulric was not a little surprized, by the sight of a female of the most elegant form and beautiful countenance, than whom, with the exception of his beloved Florida, he had never beheld a more fascinating object. Her graceful movements, when she rose to pay her respects to the chief, convinced him that she was no ordinary person, and the *contour* of her countenance being perfectly Austrian, he concluded that she must be a prisoner of distinction, before he asked a question concerning her, or before any communication respecting her was made to him.

Anxious, however, to ascertain the name of his visitor, and the means by which she had gained her entrance

into the cave, the warrior chief took Ap. Gryff to the entrance of the cavern, and enquired into the particulars of the occurrences which had taken place since his departure, when the venerable harper entered into the following recital.

Yesterday, my dear Ulric, with the consent of the Bernese commander I took a strong detachment of the band, amounting to two thousand, with a determination to storm the mountain, and pick up as many recruits as possible: and we had been out about three hours, and were at some distance from our retreat, when a body of the enemy suddenly appeared winding down the mountain, and conducting a procession amongst which was the lady now in the cavern. No stimulus was necessary to urge us to attack the foe, and, indeed, had we been inclined to suffer them to pass

without molestation, we could not have carried our wishes into effect; for no sooner did they perceive us, than, with a shout of defiance, they prepared themselves for an attack upon us. Without waiting for an assault, we rushed to the contest with an enemy which exceeded ourselves in numbers, but were far inferior in intrepidity and danger. Sword met sword, and shield clashed against shield, while a division of the foe made a movement to carry off the females from the sanguinary scene: but the irresistible violence of our attack defeated their purpose, and obliged them to concentrate their whole strength to support it. Long raged the fight, and victory hovered now over the Swiss, and then over the Germans: at one moment my brave followers appeared to relax in their exertions; and at another, as if

urged by some new inpulse, they re-newed their efforts, and the foe was seen giving way. The shades of evening had half darkened the land-scape before the contention assumed a decisive form, when our gallant fellows, encouraged by my words, returned to the attack with a despe-rate fury, which sacrificed hundreds of the Austrian army, and compelled the rest to give back considerably. They attempted to rally and retrieve the disaster; but I saw that the loss of a moment would hazard the loss of all; and rushing forward and being ably seconded by the band, I repeated the assault, before the panic-struck Germans had recovered their presence of mind; and in a few mi-nutes all was ruin, confusion, and dismay amongst the troops of the foe, and triumphant exultation amongst our own. Our whole attention was

now turned to the pursuit of the fugitives, and during its continuance, numbers of unhappy wretches, retarded by wounds or fatigue, fell victims to the unrestrainable fury of the Swiss. The pursuit lasted until past midnight, and the result of the conflict was most desolating to the hopes and destructive to the power of the Austrian detachment; even at the gates of Zurich we renewed the attack, and took possession of the fair prisoner whom you have seen, and who is indisputably of more than common consequence amongst our oppressors. Ever since her capture, she has maintained a sullen reserve, but I have prevented any insult being offered to her delicacy, and her treatment has been rather that of a guest than a prisoner. Nothing, however, has transpired to develope the secrecy in which her

rank and name are concealed; nor would I have used force to extort a word from her, to have secured the independence of Switzerland, for there is no duty more incumbent, and imperative than that which inculcates humanity to those who have need of it."

"I thank you heartily for the sentiment;" exclaimed Ulric, pressing the hand of his venerable friend: "and I need not take pains to convince you that my own heart beats in unison with yours, Let every care be taken of her; I entrust her to your charge, for there is none to whom I could, with such confidence, commit the alleviation of misfortune. By the fortune of war she has fallen into our hands, and when she has left us she shall at all events, have to make a good report of our gallantry. And for your vigour, also, I thank you,

my worthy Ap Gryff, you have shewn yourself a hero, as well as a bard, and have in the recent contention proved your title to the appellation of a soldier. Attracted by your strains, or forced by your sword, victory shall continue to hover around our standard, and the day of emancipation shall arrive with accelerated speed. My journey to Zurich, although attended with some hazard, has been far from unprofitable; since it has taught me, that notwithstanding there are persons there who are well disposed to our cause, and would unite themselves to us, when the danger attending such a step may be blown over, we have only to trust in the means we possess, and fight as though the salvation of our country depends on our arms alone."

As he concluded Ulric entered into a recapitulation of the adventures

which he and Riesbach had met with during their perilous excursion; and in the course of the narrative the bard displayed very considerable agitation; especially when the warriors related the circumstances of Father Ursulo's apprehension, nor could he conceal his joy when he heard of the worthy prior's escape, and the unsuccessful result of the pursuit which was made after him. The old man warmly congratulated his pupil on the prudence and address with which he had met the difficulties which presented themselves to him, and augured from the continued exercise of his talents, the most happy and decisive consequences to the general cause.

The chief of the Bernese, also, who had joined them in time to hear the interesting detail of the event which had occurred since the departure of

Ulric and his friend, gazed on him with admiration as he listened to the coolness and modesty with which he treated the whole subject, and was lavish in his praises of the good conduct which he had displayed, on every occasion.

In the mean time, Riesbach, anxious to mark their return by the diffusion of general joy, had prepared a feast for the band, in the interior of the cave, and all past troubles were soon lost in the gratifying contemplation of the present enjoyments. Ap Gryff, attentive to his lovely charge, conducted her into a recess of the cave which he had, with commendable diligence, separated from the residence of the band; and here he left her to indulge on her own meditations without restraint, justly considering from the look of terror and anxiety which sat upon her countenance that

the boisterous mirth of the Swiss was in no way suited to the melancholy which racked her spirits in consequence of her desolated situation.

Returning to his friends, where the enlivening wine continued to flow with generous profusion, the enraptured bard commemorated the re-union of the chief and his band, with strains of the most lively and animated nature, and swept the strings of his instrument with a master's force. To all the band, who had been accustomed more or less to catch the soul-inspiring song, the music conveyed the most unbounded enthusiasm: but Illaro, to whom the harmonies were entirely new, was lost in amazement. He had heard the marvellous tale of the defeated Austrians respecting these strains, but he had considered the story as merely intended to excuse their defeat: but

now he confessed, with an enraptured voice, that no human power could contend with those who were inspired by this celestial music. The old harper, gratified by the powerful effects of his skill, exerted himself with new energy, and new admiration crowned his efforts, when suddenly, on his pausing for a few minutes, a shout burst through the stillness of the cavern, and the astonished band, at the command of Ulric, seized their arms.

CHAPTER. VIII.

The consternation of a moment was the instantaneous effect produced by the sudden interruption of the harmony of the band of patriots. "We are betrayed!" exclaimed Ulric —"Our entrance here has been discovered, and we have only to contend whether we shall be driven from our residence, or shall give our invaders a lesson which time shall never efface from their recollection."

At this moment a shout louder and more piercing than the first penetrated the cavern, and was immediately answered by another from the stimulated inhabitants of its bowels; and

the whole band marched to the mouth of the abode which was darkened by the numbers of the enemy, the commander of which in an imperative tone, summoned them to yield themselves up his prisoners, or to take the consequences, and die the death of traitors."

"We will die the death of patriots and of heroes!" returned the indignant Ulric—"we fight for the land which our fore-fathers tilled in peace; and we will enjoy our rights without innovation or abridgment. We dare your power, and proudly bid you defiance. Our motto is, *Switzerland and liberty*." A shout loud as the thunders of heaven filled the cavern, as the warriors concluded, and bursting from its mouth, penetrated the paralysed ranks of the enemy; and, at the same moment, the harp of Ap Gryff gave existence to strains of such

a martial nature, that every Swiss rushed forward, impatient to dye his sword in Austrian blood.

The rush of the residents of the cave was irresistable, and the affrighted foe gave back from the gloomy entrance, closely pursued by the sons of the mountain; but as the latter were preparing to commence a formidable attack, an Austrian officer advanced, and making a sign of peace, prepared to address the Switzers, who lowered their up-lifted swords to hear him.

"Misguided men, you have been prevailed upon by artful insinuations to marshal yourselves against the established laws and Government of your country. You were degraded, disunited and unhappy; when the power of Austria interfered, took you under its benign protection, and has ever since directed your public counsels in such a way as to augment your

glory and increase your happiness. In return for this benignity and goodness, you have taken up arms against your preservers, who have acted from the most disinterested views, and seek to overturn the only government which can secure your welfare. Return to your duty and allegiance, lay down your arms, and give up your leaders to the just indignation of Austria, and you shall not only escape unpunished, but shall experience new indulgencies, as a proof of the sincerity with which your German governor seeks your happiness. Surrender your arms and act as I have advised, and you may be happy; but if you persist, I have authority to declare that you shall be quickly exterminated, and no mercy will be shewn to such incorrigible traitors."

The last words had scarcely escaped from his lips when an arrow from the

bow of a Switzer pierced his heart, and the speaker closed his eyes for ever. Ulric hastily and indignantly turned to punish the rash hand which had committed the violence, but at the instant, an universal shout betrayed the general approbation of the act, and the swords of the band were again elevated, and their bows bent to the utmost. Before their chief could find opportunity to interfere, the enraged Switzers had sent forth a deadly flight of arrows, and the first rank of the astonished Austrians had already bit the dust before their comrades had recalled sufficient presence of mind to make preparations for the resistance of such an unexpected assault.

A fearful and terrific contest ensued; feats of the most determined valour were displayed on both sides, but the victory was not long undecided, for the Austrians, who

were scarcely equal to the band in numerical strength, were soon compelled to give way in every direction, and the triumphant patriots pursued them down the mountain with such astonishing rapidity, that more fell in the flight than in the engagement, and the rising of a thick mist, which threw a temporary obscurity over the landscape, alone saved the fugitives from total extinction. Full of joy, and elevated by the signal triumph which they had gained, the Swiss returned to their cave to finish their unterminated banquet; and the beams of transport which shot from every eye betrayed the unspeakable satisfaction which occupied the bosoms of the happy conquerors.

Yet, notwithstanding the decisive nature of the late victory was calculated to infuse equal joy into the bosom of Ulric and the other chiefs,

it was observable that a degree of sedate reflection sat upon their brows, which plainly discovered that their minds were occupied by thoughts of a less cheering nature; and such indeed was the fact, for Ulric truly considered that, since the enemy had succeeded in their grand object, the discovery of the cave, the band could no longer be free from interruption and apprehension as before. Irritated by the recent defeats, the Austrian governor would send a still more powerful force, without delay, to effect the total destruction of those who had already given him so much pain, and so considerably abridged his military strength: and there appeared no possible way to escape annihilation but to find another and a more secure asylum.

Sentiments of a similar description occupied the bosoms of Ap Gryff

Riesbach, and the chief of the Bernese, and it was mutually resolved to station centinels upon the eminence above the cave, which overlooked the whole of the mountain beneath, until their efforts to discover a new retreat should be crowned with success. This project was, accordingly, carried into immediate execution, and a comparative tranquillity superceded the influence of apprehension.

From a wounded prisoner who had been brought into the cave, Ulric extorted the intelligence, that the enemy had been guided to the retreat by the appearance of Riesbach and himself upon the eminences which they had been obliged to surmount previously to their entering it in the morning; and, in consequence of this discovery the commander of the Austrians had united his forces to

another detachment which had been sent from Zurich to assist in the pursuit of the fugitives, and with this concentrated strength he had pushed forward to the spot where the warriors had been seen. When they arrived on the top of the eminence, their ears were greeted with the sounds of mirth which ascended from below, and, rushing precipitately down the declivity, they were directed by the voices to the very mouth of the cavern which they sought. Ignorant of the numbers of its inhabitants, but supposing them much inferior to their own, they were on the point of commencing a furious attack upon their inveterate enemy, when their intention was arrested by the strains of music which issued from the dark abode, and struck terror into the breasts of the soldiers, many of whom had been in the fatal engage-

ment when these sounds had before interfered, and their superstitious imaginations immediately construed the harmonies into an omen of the most fatal complexion to themselves and their project. The panic was not partial nor temporary, but was spreading universally and with great rapidity when the music ceased, suddenly, and the commander of the Austrians, seized the favourable moment, encouraged his men to commence the attack, who sent forth the shout which alarmed the band, and proved the signal for their own complete and sanguinary overthrow.

Rendered uneasy by the events of the evening, Ulric, passed a sleepless night in revolving in his mind some scheme for the counteraction of the future attacks of the enemy, which, he could not doubt, would now be resumed with additional vigour, and

from which his apprehensions antici- pated the frustration of his hopes respecting the ultimate emancipation of Switzerland. After many hours' anxious agitation, he determined on a plan of procedure which he re- solved to carry into execution on the following morning. At the very ex- tremity of the cave was a slight fissure in the mountain which admitted a slight ray of light at the distance of more than a mile from its entrance, and this limited chasm he had dis- covered to be hidden completely from observation by two tremendous glaciers which shut out all access except to the sun. This chasm he determined to widen into an entrance, and to choak up the present mouth of the cave, so that when the enemy should return to attack the cavern, they might be misled by the appear- ance of the choaked up asylum, to

imagine that the band had entirely forsaken it, in consequence of its discovery; from an execution of this project Ulric anticipated the most complete success, and satisfaction once more reigned in his bosom.

Scarcely had the sun penetrated the asylum before Ulric arose, and seeking his friends, who composed his military council, he imparted his scheme to them without delay, when its practicability was fully discussed, and its adoption determined upon. In consequence of this decision the whole band were retained to devote their attention to the execution of a scheme, and, while one half was occupied in closing up the old, the residue widened the new entrance, and before sun-set, the face of the spot was so completely metamorphosed as to deceive persons of more acute segacity than their Austrian

foes. On viewing the work of the day the bosom of Ulric once more became the seat of joy, and the congratulations of his friends upon the complete success of his plan tended in no small degree to elevate his hopes and originate new speculations on the ultimate success of their views on which the happiness of his future life must entirely depend. If Switzerland was freed by his exertions, Florida would become the partner of his future life, but if he failed, he must give up his right to her hand, and what attraction would existence possess if deprived of her who was the source of its pleasures? Glory although a grand, was not the principal stimulus of the warrior; he regarded this passion as only secondary to love, as the ladder by which he might climb to the summit of his wishes. Yet he would have willingly

fought, and with equal ardour too, for the emancipation of his country, if he had never beheld Florida; but, having seen her, and her affection being the prize for which he had to contend, he could not prevail upon himself to think that any stimulus was equal to that which existed in the person of his beloved.

Since the return of Ulric, the reserve of the fair captive had very sensibly diminished, and the efforts of her conquerors to render her situation agreeable, or at least to divest it as much as possible of the idea of a prison, were not without making an impression upon her gratitude. When the young warrior perceived this pleasing alteration, he flattered himself with the hopes of being speedily enabled to draw from her own lips a confession of her name and rank, and he should thus be prepared more properly to ap-

preciate the value of his prisoner, who, he was convinced, was a person of no mean consideration. He determined, therefore, to avail himself of the first favourable opportunity which should present itself to make the inquiry which so much occupied his thoughts, and a very short time elapsed, before the desired moment was offered to him.

On the second day after his arrival, the chief, after dispatching the greater part of his troop on an excursion, and ordering the residue to various employments, found himself and Ap Gryff alone with the fair stranger; when Ulric addressing himself to her in a tone of respect, enquired as to the cause which had thrown her into the hands of his followers.

"Alas! gallant sir," exclaimed the captive, "the story of the unfortunate Lucette cannot be gratifying to

your feelings; nevertheless, if it is your wish, and as some slight recompense for the kindness with which I have been treated, I will enter into it."

Ulric expressed his wish to listen to her narrative, if the relation of it could be given without causing her a pang, otherwise (added the gallant youth) I will willingly restrain my curiosity for ever." Lucette cast a look of more than common expression upon him, as he uttered these words: it was a look of indescribable tenderness; but, after a momentary gaze, as if suddenly recollecting herself, she withdrew her attention from him, sighed deeply, and commenced her story.

"My Father who is the present governor of Switzerland, was an inhabitant of Dresden, when my infant eyes opened on the light of day. A

tender mother overlooked my early years and nursed me with an affection, which was only arrested by death. Yes, sir, she died ere I had seen three summers, and left me a sacred bequest to my father. I was too young to know or feel the extent and severity of my loss, and my playful moments continued without interruption, while the corpse of her who gave me birth, still remained near me. But my father felt the privation to which he had been compelled to submit, and while he bowed his head in token of resignation to the will of heaven, his overflowing heart would discharge its intolerable load, and floods of tears would rush down his cheeks. The impression made upon his mind, by this melancholy event, was weakened and ultimately effaced by time, and his attention was devoted to me, the only pledge which his deceased angel

had left to his charge. My youth, however, passed without the occurrence of any remarkable incident, but scarcely had I told seventeen, before my heart was assailed by numberless suitors who contended for my affection. They were all alike to me, none of them were calculated to make any particular progress in my affections, while on the other hand, the never-ceasing attentions and flatteries which they paid me, impressed me with a belief that either of them possessed the power to make me happy. I had just reached my nineteenth year, when my father ordered me to receive as my future husband, the only son of an opulent merchant of Dresden, who was introduced to my notice. This youth, unfortunately for my obedience, had been much neglected by nature; and, instead of being gifted with such elegance of form and ap-

pearance as had marked his competitors in gallantry, he had nothing to boast of but an immense protuberance between his shoulders, which certainly added to the size if not to the grace of his person. To look upon such a man with indifference was impossible for one who was beset by the handsomest youths of Dresden. I absolutely beheld him with aversion, and could not imagine what could induce my father to select out of all his acquaintance this most inelegant being to plague my future life. The introduction of him certainly produced a very opposite effect from what my father imagined: and, so far from captivating my affections, it set me to draw comparisons between him and those who had a longer claim to my notice: the result was most unhappy for the deformed Fernando, whose reception at my hands ought to have induced him

to give up his pretensions to one who could treat him with such cruel unkindness. Such was my opinion at the moment, but time and experience have proved that Fernando possessed none of those fine feelings which are to be affected by any woman's coolness and neglect; he sought me for my wealth, and he cared little by what means he obtained me, so that he gained all the first object of his pursuit. He continued to pester me with his presence and attentions, both of which were insufferably tedious: and instead of inducing me to regard him with an eye of love, drove me to fly for refuge from his addresses to the arms of another. There was amongst my old suitors, one of unusual modesty of demeanour: whenever he approached me, his bashful look, down cast eyes, and incessant agitation explained sufficiently the

love he had not courage to declare: and the amiability of his character, added to the sincere affection which marked his manner, produced some impression upon my heart. In proportion as Fernando annoyed me, I encouraged Charles; so that the former was indeed advocating the cause of the latter. Enraptured by my particular notice, the modest Charles gradually began to increase in confidence, and was soon urged to make a declaration of his love, I listened to him, and frankly told him, that I felt more affection for him than for any other person I had seen, but that I was constrained by the will of my father to receive the addresses of the odious Fernando. Before we parted, however, we swore eternal fidelity, and I added that no power on earth should compel me to unite my fate with that of a man whom I detested.

We agreed to meet every evening in the garden of my father to which there was an entrance from the road, and to indulge in the luxury of reciprocal love. The vain Fernando soon perceived that my conduct became more marked with disrespect towards him every day, and that it was impossible for him to hope to gain my heart, which he suspected was estranged from him by his rival. He accordingly complained to my father, who, after violently expostulating with me, commanded me no longer to admit the visits of Charles on pain of incurring his most severe displeasure. I heard in silence, but I promised not to obey, although my father endeavoured by every threat he could utter to extort from me the required obligation. I maintained, however, a stubborn silence, and he quitted me, vowing vengeance upon

me and Charles, if I dared to disobey him. In our next interview I stated to Charles all that my father had declared, and he pressed me to consent to a private marriage and an elopement, as the only way to elude the menaced vengeance. So eloquently did he plead his cause, that he gained my consent before our interview terminated, and the execution of the project was fixed for the second evening from the present. When our arrangement was concluded, we separated with elevated hearts and increased happiness. When I returned home, I perceived that my father's temper was unusually ruffled, and that he regarded me with a look of stern suspicion to which I had never before been subjected: I however, avoided his scrutinizing gaze, by quitting his presence, and retired to my chamber under a pretence of indis-

position. On the following morning, at the breakfast table, I noticed the still unaltered looks of my father, which convinced me that a storm was gathering over me, and caused me to rejoice that I had agreed to the arrangement of Charles, which was so well calculated to remove me from the effects of the unalterable resolution of my father. Fernando visited me as usual in the course of the morning, but in his looks also I marked an evident change: instead of his usual supplicating manner, he had now assumed a haughtiness and frigidity which astonished me exceedingly, and he even ventured to inform me that our marriage was intended to take place on the second evening. This was the period fixed on by Charles for our elopement, and as Fernando uttered his information with a kind of malicious satisfaction

of, tone and look, I felt a strange shivering seize my frame and a sad mis-giving of the future creep over my heart. I longed for evening that I might communicate my fears to Charles; but, in the interview, the same mysterious silence, as had hitherto characterized their conduct, still marked the behaviour of my father and Fernando. The evening came, and I hastened to meet my lover who was already wishing for my arrival; my agitated appearance alarmed his faithful heart, and he eagerly inquired the cause of my emotion; I entered into a detail of the conduct of my father and Fernando, and dwelt with terror on his expressions that the next evening was to seal my fate. "Perhaps (said I, in a trembling tone of voice) I may not be able to meet you at the time appointed." "There is but one way

to remove all doubt (replied he) and that is by placing your honour in my keeping at this moment, and consenting to fly with me, before the possibility of our eternal separation is realized." I started with terror at the apparent rashness of the sudden proposition, but Charles, seeing my apprehension and hesitation, endeavoured to remove my disquietude with such tender eloquence, that my fears were soon allayed, and I began to reason with myself on the consequences which would result from my present conduct. If I remained at home, I might be compelled to accept the hand of the hated Fernando, for my father was fully bent on the sacrifice of my happiness to his views, and no longer should I behold him who alone possessed my heart. It was possible that some suspicion of our design might be harboured in the

bosom of my father, and, if so, my escape after this moment, would certainly be rendered impracticable, but if I consented to the wishes of my beloved Charles, and placed myself immediately in his care; if I now bade adieu to my paternal mansion, I should be freed from the horrid apprehensions which assailed me; from the gloomy anticipations which presented themselves to my diseased imagination. I should find happiness with Charles, for it was evident that he loved me with the tenderest affection. My determination was soon taken; I opposed his arguments more weakly and, seeing his advantage he assailed me anew, until at length, with a voice of hesitation, I tremblingly asked "Whither can we fly to escape the pursuit which will be instantly set on foot after us." Charles saw his victory,

and eager to improve it, replied in a louder tone of voice than he had before dared to use—"To Switzerland my angelic Lucetta; there I have friends, and there, amidst the sublime Alps, we may conceal ourselves effectually, and securely bid defiance to any measure which your father or Fernando may think proper to institute against us. But believe me, my love your deformed suitor will not long lament your absence, nor give himself much trouble to search after you." Then I will go with you my Charles (exclaimed I) and in the interchange of our affection we must seek for that happiness which the imperative will of paternal cruelty would tear from us for ever." Pressing me to his bosom, the grateful youth seized my arm, and was on the point of conducting me to the narrow door by which he entered the

garden, when a sudden rustling amongst the shrubs which surrounded the bower where we had sat, made us turn round with terror, and instantly we beheld my father and Fernando rushing upon us with drawn swords in their hands, while from their eyes flashed the most ungovernable fury. My disappointed suitor instantly rushed upon my poor Charles, but not before he had drawn his own weapon in his defence; and, after a short contest Fernando received the point of my lover's sword in his heart, and fell a lifeless corpse at my feet. At this instant, my father (gracious heaven, why didst thou give me such a father!) rushed upon the conqueror, who refused to raise his hand against him to whom his Lucette owed her existence, and by a cowardly blow, robbed me of all on earth which I held dear.

The unhappy youth fell, expiring on the ground: unable to restrain my unfilial indignation, I exclaimed—"Cursed barbarian, thou hast slain my Charles!" I threw myself on the gronnd by the side of my lover, and, with part of my dress, endeavoured to staunch the blood which gushed from his wound, but my efforts were useless, and, with a shriek of horror, as I marked the image of death overspreading his countenance, I sank lifeless upon his body. His dying groans recalled me to existence, and I revived only in time to hear the last expressions to which his tongue gave utterance—"Farwell, my Lucette, our prospects are soon destroyed, our happiness is blasted for ever. One satisfaction, however, I find in death; Fernando can never call thee his. I forgive him that has destroyed me for ever

and blasted my prospects in their birth; but may he regard my memory with less hatred, than he viewed my life. Farewell, my love, may heaven shed its choicest blessing on you; may you live long and find happiness"—Here the words died away upon his lips, he closed his eyes on all around him, his convulsed hand relaxed its grasp of mine, and his gallant heart ceased to palpitate.

" What followed this tremendous scene, I know not, but when I awoke to existence again, I was stretched on my own bed, and at my side stood my father, and my own female attendants, with a medical man, who was endeavouring to restore me. The first words which I heard, were those of my father—"Blessed be the virgin, she lives, and my misery is not so deep as it at first appeared." I opened my eyes and looked wildly

around the apartment, then fixing them on my father, I exclaimed in hurried accents—" Where is my Charles." " He groaned deeply on hearing my interrogatory, and sank into a chair, unable to support the consequences of his blind and head-strong fury. But I weary you, sir, with the minuteness of my detail be it sufficient to say; that I lay at the point of death, for many weeks, until the strength of my constitution triumphed, and I was again restored to the world. My father, deeply penitent for the crime he had committed, now only strove by his incessant kindness to obliterate the painful remembrance of the past, and he succeeded in removing that agony which had uniformly assailed me when I looked upon him as the murderer of my lover. His sorrow pierced my heart; his despondency lessened mine, and

soon a comparative degree of negative happiness stole from me the bitterness of my misery. My father had contrived to give currency to a rumour that the two rivals in my affection had fallen in a duel with each other, and this report was the more readily believed as the hatred of the two youths to each other was well known as well as its unfortunate cause. Thus my father escaped all suspicion of being concerned in the fray, and all inquiry was stifled in its birth. It was long after this period, before I recovered my usual spirits, until the lapse of years had in a measure removed the image of the deceased Charles; when my father, who had never enjoyed complete serenity of mind since his own rash interference and its dreadful consequences, became extremely anxious to quit Dresden, and, at this

juncture, the Governor of Switzerland being slain, he applied for the vacant situation, and by his great interest with the Duke, he succeeded in his wishes, and received the appointment which he so ardently and incessantly desired.

"The terror which your gallant exploits excited in Zurich determined my father to use every exertion, to bring about your destruction, but I rejoice to say that his efforts have been attended with no success; for the courtesy which has been shewn to me, since my detention here, has rivetted my esteem to this cave for ever. I was returning from an excursion of pleasure when I fell into your power, and my father had compelled me to accept of an escort; lest as he expressed himself, I should experience any brutal insolence from the traitors who infested the moun-

tains. From his terrible descriptions I had formed such a hateful opinion respecting you, that when I fell into the hands of your followers, I would have preferred instant death to the prospect of an imprisonment amongst such supposed barbarians. I have found myself, however, very agreeably deceived; and if I shall be permitted to return to Zurich any more I shall remove the prejudices which have clouded the reason of my father, and convince him that his enemies are generous and brave as the soldiers of Germany; and that they know and practice the duties of humanity with as much conscientiousness as any officer would who holds his rank under the Duke of Austria."

"The blessed virgin forbid that it should be otherwise!" exclaimed Ulric; "for what has a greater claim on our benevolence than distress,

We are the enemies of your countrymen, fair lady, from principle and nesessity. They have invaded our rights, and hold sway over our persons; they oppress us with burdens which are intolerable, and goad us with severities which are insufferable; they are foreign usurpers, and have no right to our allegiance; we are natives of these mountains; they were the residence of our ancestors, and belong to us by inheritance: we are therefore justified in defending our rights. Let the Austrians withdraw from our country, and we will leave them unmolested: we will not invade their territories, we will not injure their possessions; but we will have rulers of our own nation; Swiss like ourselves, who can feel a veneration for the land they govern, and respect for their countrymen. The Austrians may represent

us as traitors and wretches, but they cannot delude those who have known us from infancy, who have associated with us, and have witnessed our past conduct. We are men who love our country, and will risk our lives in the attempt to emancipate her from the yoke which your Duke has imposed upon her."

The sentiments of Ulric were applauded and echoed by Ap Gryff, and the fair captive herself felt their force and justice: for wiping from her cheeks the tears which straggled down them, she exclaimed—"Noble chief, would that my inclination to save you were seconded by the power: then should you no longer groan under oppression, but the Austrian armies should be withdrawn and you should be left to chuse your own governors, make your own laws, and enjoy your own privileges. I see that justice is

on your side, and in its aid the intreaties and prayers of Lucette shall not be wanting. But alas! I fear they will but avail little, but the kindness which I have experienced among you renders this small recompence a duty incumbent on me to perform. Gallant chief, may success smile on your endeavours, yet in the midst of victory remember mercy; and, oh! should my father ever be placed within your power, behave to him as you have to his daughter, and the blessings of the saints will reward you for your noble forbearance. Yet why should I supplicate, mercy is enthroned upon your brow, and I feel a full confidence that you are as incapable of a cruel action as him whom I have so long lamented.

Ulric promised to remember her request, and Riesbach being now returned with his foraging party, the chief held a consultation with his

friends as to the best means of disposing of the fair captive, when it was resolved to send a party to conduct her to the gates of Zurich when the darkness should cover the expedition, and after having extorted from her an oath that she would never divulge the residence of the band, and Ulric, with a generous enthusiasm added—"I will lay my life that she proves faithful, for she is already impressed with the justice of our cause, and wishes it the success which it deserves."

When the determination of Ulric was communicated to Lucette by himself, she gave way to a new emotion of gratitude, and taking the hand of the warrior in her own she pressed it fervently to her lips, and stammered—"How forcibly does this noble generosity remind me of my lost Charles! Oh gallant chief: think sometimes of the

grateful Lucette; and believe that her memory will often recur to this moment with a pleasure too great for expression." As she said these words she pressed the hand of the chief with still greater fervour, and with a look, which raised a strange sensation in his bosom.

The agitation of Lucette seemed to proceed from something more than gratitude. This idea struck forcibly upon the mind of Ulric, who felt a sort of uneasiness as he stammered out a reply. He was resolved, however, if his suspicions were well founded to prevent her from confirming them by any further emotion, and he accordingly withdrew with more precipitation than he would have shewn in retreating from a superior enemy; and calling Riesbach to him, he entrusted to him the charge of the captive, and directed him to take a strong

detachment of the band, sufficient to repel any assault which might be made upon him.

As soon as the mists of night had sat in, the troops were in motion, and Ulric advanced to take leave of his prisoner. "Farewell, lady, (said he) your tale has interested me strongly in your favor, and if the good wishes of a persecuted warrior can be acceptable to you they are your's with all sincerity. Represent us as men of honor and principle, who practice mercy and fight for justice."

An indescribable agitation which convulsed Lucette prevented her from making an audible reply, and Ulric wishing to avoid any further developement of her feelings, waved his hand and the troop was instantly in motion. The chief felt himself considerably relieved by the departure of Lucette; and, taking advantage of

the rising of the moon which soon afterwards threw a silvery lustre around the brow of the mountain, he quitted the cave, and ascending the aspiring glaciers which concealed and fortified the entrance, seated himself on the highest point, and began to give a loose to his meditations. Many months had rolled away, and yet he saw not before him a brighter prospect of success than that which had beamed on his first entrance into the cave, Switzerland was yet involved, and the Austrian power yet unshaken: the consequence was that Florida was still as far from his reach as ever.

Such was the nature of Ulric's agitations, and from it the reader will have no difficulty in deciding that he was in a gloomy temper of mind, otherwise he would not have cherished such unfounded and cheerless sentiments. Whether the cause of this disponden-

cy was to be found in the attentions which Lucette had shewn to him, or in the interest in her welfare which her sad tale had excited, it is of no consequence here to decide. Suffice it to say that in a comparison between Florida and Lucette the former had a proud triumph.

Wrapped in meditation, the chief continued to sit upon the glacier, until the declining moon began to detract from the silent and silver beauty of the scene. Yet he was heedless of the change, and might have remained so until dawn, had not a sudden noise from the cavern completely dissipated his abstraction and caused him to descend with much rapidity to investigate the occasion of it.

As he entered the abode, he was not a little surprized to find the whole of the band which had remained at home, under arms, and advancing

towards that part of the subterraneous dwelling which had been deserted ever since its mouth was choaked up. Hastily advancing, he inquired the cause of the alarm, and Ap Gryff immediately informed him that a tremendous noise had issued from the part of the cave whither they were marching, and that their purpose was to acquaint themselves with the source whence it proceeded, Ulric instantly placed himself at the head of his band, and approached the blocked-up entrance. But all was silent as the night, and after waiting there for upwards an hour, the band returned to their proper residence. Shortly afterwards, Riesbach and his troop re-entered the cave, when Ulric received information that a very formidable army of Austrians was encamped round the mouth of the asylum which had been closed up, and that

in order to avoid observation, and convey the news to his comrades, Riesbach had taken a circuitous route, and had arrived unperceived.

The cause of the alarm was now made known, and Ulric calling his friends together, began to deliberate on the best method of attacking the enemy, or of counteracting their intention. Lazy sloth and inactivity were uncongenial to every warrior's mind; and it was soon resolved to march forth before the dawn of the morning, and to attack the Austrian army while laying in fancied security. This proposition which emanated from Ulric was received by enthusiasm, and preparations for a new conflict were accordingly commenced throughout the cavern, with an alacrity which indicated the ardour of every breast.

In the mean time Ulric requested

Riesbach to say in what manner he had executed his charge, when the young warrior gave the following narrative—" Ere we had half reached the town, the rising moon illuminated the landscape sufficiently for us to discern the objects immediately around us: and long before we had reached the walls, we received intimation of some extraordinay movements at the gates of the town which convinced us that the enemy were about to march on some secret expedition. We lay close until the confusion subsided and we beheld an army winding slowly up the mountains, and when the distance had completely concealed them, we resumed our journey, and soon reached our destination; when we entered into a parley with the sentinels, and, on giving intelligence of our mission, the gates were opened, after the Swiss

had been drawn off to some distance, and I approached them leading my charge, who had not uttered a sentence since we commenced our march. At this moment, however, seizing the opportunity of our being alone, she stopped me from proceeding and taking from her finger this ring, she requested me to give it to you with these mysterious words—"he alone can recompense me for the loss of Charles." As she said this she gave the ring into my hands, which I promised to deliver in safety, with the message."

"Are you certain, Riesbach," interrupted the astonished Ulric; "that your ears did not deceive you? This message and ring are certainly too mysterious for my comprehension. A valuable ring, with words of such import could only be meant for one who had impressed her heart

with sentiments of the most tender nature. Surely such an idea must be absurd in the extreme."

"Be that as it may, captain," returned Riesbach, "I have fulfilled my charge correctly, in conveying the message and ring to you. Would that such tokens were dispatched to me from one so fair and amiable as the Austrian captive!"

"To any other than myself would that these had been dispatched!" replied Ulric, in a hurried tone; then suddenly recollecting himself, he resumed—"Proceed good Riesbach, proceed, and pardon me this momentary interruption."

"Well sir" said Riesbach—"when I had received the message and the present, the lady seemed much tranquillized in her mind and manners; and pressing my hand ardently, she assured me that she would

not forget my goodness in so readily undertaking the task. By this time we had reached the gates of the town, when a guard appeared to receive the lady, to whom they paid every respect. At the head of this guard was the governor himself to whom Lucette related in a few words the manner in which she had been treated by those who had taken her, and the politeness and humanity which induced them to set her free, and give her an escort."

"Rather say that fear induced them thus to act!" exclaimed the haughty governor. "They think to conciliate my favour by this apparent attention to my daughter, but they have yet to know me thoroughly. My armies shall soon teach the rebellious traitors submission and the heads of their leaders shall decorate the walls of Zurich.

Nay thou (addressing himself to me) mayest think thyself fortunate if thou shalt be permitted to escape my fury this time."

"I was unable to restrain myself any longer, and assuming a tone of as much indifference as possible, I retorted. "Thou also mayest know us better, proud Austrian, than to imagine that we know any thing of fear. My message might at least have secured me an amicable reception, but by my forbearance I will prove to thee that I know how to pass over as well as to resent an insult." Scarcely had I given utterance to these sentiments, before the enraged Austrian, wound up to an an excess of fury by my coolness, and heedless of the intreaties of his daughter, ordered his soldiers to seize me. It was then that I drew my sword, and stepping back a few

paces, defied their rage; when the Governor gave orders to spare me not, and twenty bows were already bent against me, but the intervention of the amiable Lucette saved me from certain destruction. Finding that her father was obstinately fixed upon repaying the service we had rendered him with such baseness, she rushed from his side, and throwing herself into my arms, exclaimed, in a voice of heroic firmness. "Gallant Switzer, take me back to your intrepid chief; for I will no longer remain with beings who disgrace the form and name of man by their savage ferocity. I disclaim them, and will accompany you again to the mountains, the residence of patriotism, courage and virtue." This act of Lucette effected what nothing else could have brought about; the sternness of the Governor gave

way when he witnessed the danger of his daughter and he called to his soldiers to stay their hands. Lucette was with some difficulty prevailed on to return to her father, but not until she had extorted a solemn promise that I should be suffered to depart without molestation. Reluctantly the promise was given, and in a few minutes afterwards, I had repassed the gates, and had lost sight of Lucetta, who waved her hand, and shed some tears, when the closing portals divided us from each other. Hastening to my comrades, I again set forward on our journey to the cavern, taking nearly the same route, as that which the enemy had pursued; and the setting of the moon soon threw a favourable darkness over the scene, which enabled us to march onward with less fear of discovery. When we had passed the

midway to the cave, we heard a confused murmur before us, which convinced us that we were in the track of the Germans, and with slow precision and the silence of death, we followed them closely, until we gained upon them so much as to hear the detail of their plan, from the conversation which passed between the leaders. From this dialogue, I gathered, that it was the determination of the Austrians whose force amounts to sixteen thousand soldiers to hover about the mountain summit, until they should succeed in discovering the retreat which we had now taken up, although I understood that strong suspicions were entertained that we still occupied some part of the same cave, as that which we had originally occupied. No quarter is to be shewn to us, but very effort will be tried to seduce

our brave followers, and induce them to yield up their leaders, and, in the event of their refusal to be guilty of such baseness, every prisoner to be slaughtered indiscriminately. We still continued to hang upon the rear of our enemies, until we arrived in the vicinity of the retreat, when they made an assanlt upon the blocked up entrance, with intent to discover whether it was possible to penetrate into the interior. The possibility of such a measure was discovered, after which the soldiers were ordered to desist and encamp themselves on the spot until sun-rise, when it was resolved that a grand attack should be made upon this part, while another division should march over the mountain, and explore its summit in search of an entrance else-where; as it was justly concluded that we should

not have choaked up one passage until we had made another. When we had seen the whole of the army encamped, we countermarched for a short pace, until we gained a more circuitous road to the cavern, by which we should be enabled to arrive without fear or indeed possibility of discovery, since the whole of the enemy were too well hushed to repose to admit of any pursuit or vigilance until the dawn of the morning shall stimulate their lazy spirits into action."

Riesbach had now concluded his detail, which had excited new indignation in the bosom of Ulric, against the enemies and oppressors of his country; but he congratulated his young comrades on the prudent forbearance he had displayed when exposed to the insulting taunts of the Austrian Governor; while he secretly

groaned to revenge the injury offered to the feelings of his friend.

By the time the young warrior had concluded his detail, the first glimmering of the infant day displayed itself over the highest point of the glaciers, and as it was the wish of Ulric to anticipate the design of the enemy, with which he became so fortunately acquainted, he made known his plan to his friends, and the band was immediately under arms; and headed by Ulric and Ap Gryff (who bore his sword and his harp) the whole troop clambered the rocky glaciers which hid their cave from mortal view, and advanced up the acclivity which over-looked the original entrance into the dreary asylum. Still as night, they marched; while every heart beat high with expectation, and every bosom swelled with indignant emotion. The dawn

which was just bursting into being would behold a most sanguinary conflict on which much depended; since, if the Austrians were again discomfited, the terror of the mountain band would be so widely expanded, that the enemy would scarcely venture to make another attack on men whose numbers were unknown, whose retreat defied discovery, and against whom the most powerful armies availed nothing. On the other hand, if the Switzers were defeated; their hopes of the emancipation of their country must be considerably weakened, if not destroyed, and they themselves should, probably, be so thinned and dispirited as to destroy the possibility of making any future effectual exertion to gain the desired end.

Such were the thoughts which filled the minds of the warriors as they

silently marched to the attack, and every man seemed conscious of the importance of the stake which was at issue on the day's conflict, and this consciousness sublimated courage into a higher degree of intrepid daring, from which the most glorious results were to be anticipated. While the day was yet imperfect, the whole of the band had reached the ridge of the eminence which overlooked the enemy's camp, throughout which the utmost stillness prevailed, a circumstance highly favourable to the design of the gallant Ulric, which now began to manifest itself. Impending over the foe, hung several tremendous protuberances of a rocky nature, to separate which from the mountain, every hand was instantly set in motion, and after much severe labour, the daring deed was effected just as the rising sun had shed his splen-

dours round the mountain brow, and arouzed the slumbering troops of Austria, who seemed to pay no attention to the sounds of the laborious Swiss, which now and then assailed their ears, and which they seemed to regard as proceeding only from some chamois-hunters or husbandmen. So little did they dream of the mischiefs which overhung them, and were about to fall upon their heads.

A few minutes after sun-rise three immense glaciers gave way, with a crash, which shook the mountains, and precipitated their huge and destructive fragments into the midst of the panic struck foe, who had neither power nor inclination to move from the fatal spot, but considered that some dreadful convulsion of nature was about to take place. By some mischance, the whole of the glaciers were not separated from their trunk,

but the three which had fallen, buried nearly one third of the enemy's camp in ruins, and caused a most terrible and universal confusion amongst its tenants. The disorder which ensued was immediately increased, astonishingly, by the sudden sounding of Ap Gryff's harp, from which emanated the most martial strains, and from a tremendous discharge of arrows, stones and rocks which the Swiss poured down upon the horror-entranced Germans, with uncommon rapidity and dexterity of aim.

At length, however, the foe began to recover themselves, in some degree from the panic which had seized them, and the chief summoning his forces drew them from beneath the eminence, from which such destruction was poured down, and began to exhort them to revenge the fearful fate which had befallen their comrades, whose mutilated corses lay in heaps

about the scene of slaughter, and whose dying cries at this moment resounded in the ears, and palsied the spirits and courage, of the survivors. For a long time the Austrian commander harangued his troops ineffectually, they knew not the force nor situation of their enemy, and they were loth to meet a foe, of whose vigour and dreadful power they had just received such tremendous examples. After much intreaty, they were again urged to proceed on their original enterprize, and they accordingly moved forward with melancholy steps and slow precision to scale the eminence where the Swiss had posted themselves.

In the mean time, the Switzers who had marked every motion of their enemies, retreated with rapidity down the opposite side of the hill, and surmounting the large glaciers which skirted their cave, safely lodged

themselves in their asylum before the Austrians had gained the summit of the wall. The sounds of the approaching enemy soon became distinctly audible in the cavern, and they were heard pacing round the glaciers, and uttering most loud and fearful execrations at the disappointment they had experienced, and the agility of their unseen antagonists. For nearly an hour the noise continued, when it gradually died away, and Ulric himself, cautiously ascending the cliffs, beheld no traces of the Germans: when giving the signal to his followers, the whole of the band, in martial array, once again skirted the mountain. It was now resolved to give battie to theenemy, and no longer to remain inactive, but to bring about the desirable result with all the expedition in their power. With this view Ulric marched his troop to the summit of the hill once more, when the Austrians were

discovered slowly winding their way down the mountain, towards the town of Zurich.

"Victory is already ours, my brave comrades!" exclaimed the transported chief, as he viewed the retreat of the enemy: "but let us render it more complete, and give the Austrians another proof of our prowess and bravery."

The sentiment was received with loud plaudits, and the band rapidly pursued the flying foe, by a different path from that which they themselves had taken, and in less than an hour Ulric had commenced a sudden and violent attack on the rear of his enemy, who were again taken by surprize. Notwithstanding the unexpectedness of the assault, however, the Austrians, after the first consternation had subsided, fought with uncommon bravery, and stood their ground, with such immoveable firmness,

that doubts even entered the bosom of Ulric, as to the probability of securing the victory. Yet his doubts weakened not his courage, but rather stimulated it anew, and his increasing valour diffused a similar spirit into his comrades, who fought with more resolution in proportion to the growing obstinacy of those against whom they contended; while the demon of slaughter proceeded across the plain.

For more than three hours, the victory remained undecided, but a turn was given to it, at length, by a circumstance altogether as singular as unexpected. Just as a new attack had been made by the almost despairing Swiss, and repelled by the equally harrassed Germans, the rear of the latter was in a moment attacked by a new band of soldiers, the impetuosity of whose rush was irresistible. The astonished enemy,

thus placed between two antagonist armies, continued to fight under this disadvantage, which was indeed counterbalanced by their own superior numbers, until their thinned ranks displayed a most gloomy appearance, and their sinking and dissatisfied troops, unwilling any longer to face certain destruction, began to give way in every direction. In vain did the chief attempt to rally his followers; in vain did he strive by menaces and promises to stimulate them to fresh resistance; the shock they had received was too terrible to be overcome, and in a short time the mountain was covered by the discomfited Austrians who rushed precipitately towards the town.

Hot and eager was the pursuit, and it continued even to the gates of Zurich which opened to receive the fugitives, and it was not without much difficulty that Ulric could

restrain his troops from rushing into the town to crown their victory by its capture. At length they were recalled and the stranger band, immediately uniting itself to the heroes of the mountain, the whole rent the air with their joint acclamations, and bent their way to the cavern.

During their progress, Ulric gave way to a thousand conjectures as to the friends who had so opportunely arrived to secure the palm of victory to the cause of patriotism; but he could not satisfy himself as to the source whence they had proceeded, and by what unaccountable means they arrived at the critical moment when their services were most requisite. He resolved, however, to curb his curiosity to become acquainted with the particulars of the circumstances which had led to this happy union, until they should have regained their asylum and com-

pensated themselves for the fatigues which they had this morning endured, by repose and refreshments.

The corses which bestrewed the way exhibited awful proofs of the intrepidity which this day had witnessed; and gave evidence of the extent of the losses of the enemy; but the humanity of Ulric revolted from the sickening sight of so many mutilated fellow creatures, while reason justified the deed which had caused such a calamity on the strong ground of necessity. While the chief was thus pondering on the sanguinary scene, the band arrived at the glacier, and was soon safely housed, to the astonishment of the strangers, in the undiscoverable abode.

END OF VOL. II.

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